"Our overriding purpose, from the beginning through to the present day, has been world domination-- That is, to build and maintain the capacity to coerce everybody else on the planet: non-violently if possible; violently, if necessary. But the Purpose of United States Foreign Policy of domination is not to just make the rest of the world jump through our hoops: the purpose is to facilitate our exploitation of foreign resources."
—Ramsey Clark, Foreign US Attorney General.

blAckthorn
po box 11046 portland oregon 97211

BLACKTHORN

issue number two october 2002 -free-

black thorn

Well we made it to issue two. Thanks to everyone who helped us out with the first issue. Since our paper has no paid advertisers, we are committed to finding ways of raising funds in order to publish. this has involved hundreds of people who paid for benefit shows, let us do shows at their house, played the shows, attended the rummage sale or bought bake goods at our bake sale. We are indebted to all of these folks without whom there would be no paper.

some clarifications.

ADVERTISING :

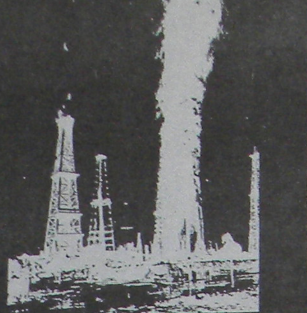
We won't be accepting any paid advertising, but if you are involved in a project that you want to promote... let us know about it. We've discussed having free classifieds and a skill share section so contact us if you are interested. Classifieds should not revolve around the selling of records or the "SWM with a flair for revolution looking for ..."
Everything is viewed by the collective and decisions are reached collectively.

SUBMISSIONS :

As a collective we operate primarily as facilitators and layout guides. True we have a hand in conducting interviews, doing art, etc. but the majority of the content is sent to us. So this said, we need contributors to keep the paper going. We can't promise to print everything we get, however we can promise to read/view everything and collectively decide whether or not we will use it. If you want your artwork or article returned to you then please send along a SASE with your submission. We can't afford to send back everything we receive.

A lot of people have been asking us what we are looking for. There are thousands of things that we would like to see. This paper is what you make of it. We don't need more conspiracy theories and rant. If you have something that you feel needs to be voiced or recognized then send it to us. We could use reliable news, info on skills, original artwork and well-researched articles or interviews that encompass the DIY ethic. For our next issue we would like to give as complete of an analysis of gentrification, as space allows. If you have stories, interviews or perspectives that you think would help illustrate this subject then let us know. We would love to have them. We suggest submissions be between 200-800 words. Let us know if you require more or less words as anything is possible.

We will edit for spelling and grammar, but if major changes need to be made, we will do the our best to let you know before printing. That is the best we can do. If you want to layout your article...go for it, otherwise we will take care of it.



PRINT RUN :

Out last issue was 5000 copies at the cost of approximately $700.00 for the paper and $150 for the poster. The poster was cheap because the labor was donated by our friends at Blackberry Press. Support them, they rock. This issue is 10,000 copies.

COST:

Blackthorn is free. If you want a single copy send three stamps and we will get one out to you. If you want more send some cash to cover postage and we will mail as many as we can. This would help us out a lot. Blackthorn is free to those who are captive in the prison system.

DISTRIBUTION:

Blackthorn can be found locally in Portland at these fine places: Q is for Choir, Laughing Horse Books and Reading Frenzy. If you want to have it at your space get a hold of us.

outside of Portland: If you would like multiple issues for your info shop, distro, rally or whatever, let us know. All you need to do is cover the postage.

ENDNOTE :

Blackthorn as a new collective and the paper is still very young. Many of the things that we are doing, we are doing for the very first time so be patient with us. We are learning as we go. We welcome suggestions, comments, criticism, etc.

an overview of radical diy culture

P.O. BOX
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There was an unfortunate error in last issue's
[illegible] article. To achieve reliable
birth control for males by taking regular
(daily) hot baths, the temp. of the water must
remain at least [illegible] degrees Fahrenheit.
...not [illegible] degrees.

NO WAR FOR OIL

black thorn is a publication focused on the creative spirit inherent in radical DIY culture. Our mission is to create and distribute a paper that reflects the lives we actually live, and provides a vehicle for independent thought, which is reflective of who we are as people.

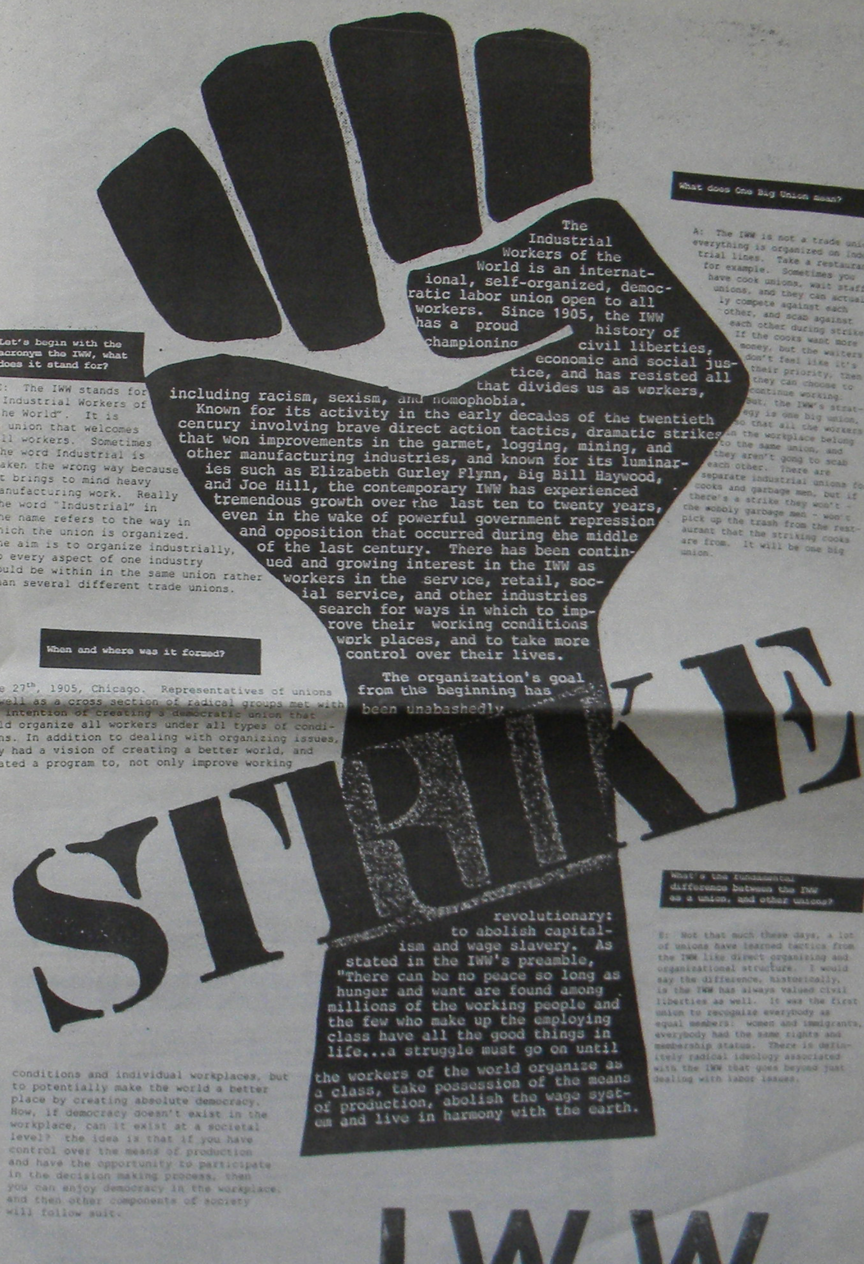
It will be about opening doors, exchanging ideas, taking charge of our lives and the piss and vinegar spirit which courses through our veins. We choose to focus less on the musical aspects of DIY and more on the lifestyles, ethics, skills and ideas. that enable us to live with increasing independence and self-reliance from the dominant culture. We want to see the whole of who we are: serious and funny, deep and shallow, ugly and beautiful.

We are a small, diverse group of people driven by our own individual passions and a belief that liberation comes from acting on your thoughts and passions, not just talking about them. By documenting the positive happenings in our communities, locally, nationally and internationally, we hope to inspire, connect and empower those who have chosen lifestyles noncohesive to the life the system has designated. We feel through creative, independent communication outlets like this, we can learn from each other and use our knowledge of life and the world to strengthen our beliefs and empower ourselves, in the face of hopelessness and depression.

We live in a time where passionate, caring people are often considered terrorists, where serious, urgent issues are usually scoffed at and reduced to humor; and active, aware minds are deemed invalid, paranoid and juvenile. This is our attempt at counter-attacking that mindset, through subversive creative energy and resistance to the artificial and the simulated.

We envision a world not ravaged by war and hunger, a world with a sustainable future and a world that is not fueled, operated and motivated by greed.

We all have the choice to be spectators and stagnate in mediocrity or to continuously seek inspiration and move forward. We choose the latter and hope this publication serves as a resource and a motivation for those who make that choice as well.



The Industrial Workers of the World is an international, self-organized, democratic labor union open to all workers. Since 1905, the IWW has a proud history of championing civil liberties, economic and social justice, and has resisted all that divides us as workers, including racism, sexism, and homophobia.

Known for its activity in the early decades of the twentieth century involving brave direct action tactics, dramatic strikes that won improvements in the garmet, logging, mining, and other manufacturing industries, and known for its luminaries such as Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Big Bill Haywood, and Joe Hill, the contemporary IWW has experienced tremendous growth over the last ten to twenty years, even in the wake of powerful government repression and opposition that occurred during the middle of the last century. There has been continued and growing interest in the IWW as workers in the service, retail, social service, and other industries search for ways in which to improve their working conditions work places, and to take more control over their lives.

The organization's goal from the beginning has been unabashedly revolutionary: to abolish capitalism and wage slavery. As stated in the IWW's preamble, "There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few who make up the employing class have all the good things in life...a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the means of production, abolish the wage system and live in harmony with the earth.

Let's begin with the acronym the IWW, what does it stand for?

E: The IWW stands for Industrial Workers of the World". It is a union that welcomes all workers. Sometimes the word Industrial is taken the wrong way because it brings to mind heavy manufacturing work. Really the word "Industrial" in the name refers to the way in which the union is organized. The aim is to organize industrially, so every aspect of one industry would be within in the same union rather than several different trade unions.

When and where was it formed?

June 27th, 1905, Chicago. Representatives of unions as well as a cross section of radical groups met with the intention of creating a democratic union that could organize all workers under all types of conditions. In addition to dealing with organizing issues, they had a vision of creating a better world, and created a program to, not only improve working conditions and individual workplaces, but to potentially make the world a better place by creating absolute democracy. How, if democracy doesn't exist in the workplace, can it exist at a societal level? the idea is that if you have control over the means of production and have the opportunity to participate in the decision making process, then you can enjoy democracy in the workplace, and then other components of society will follow suit.

What does One Big Union mean?

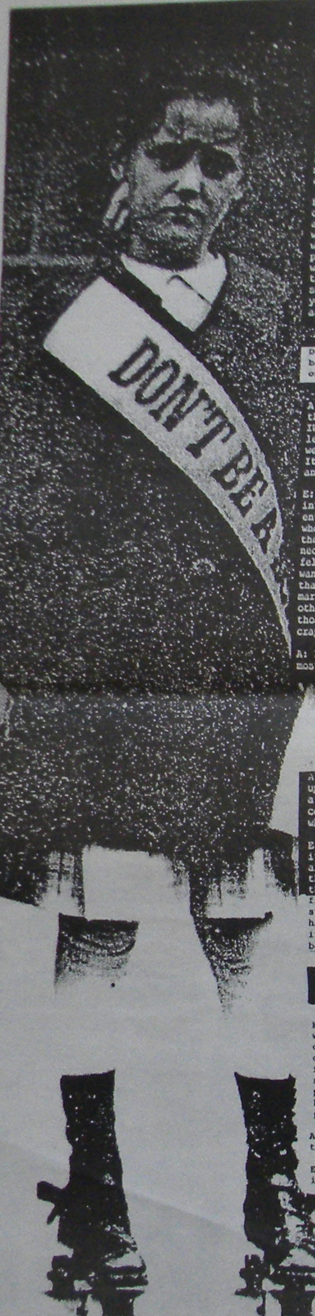
A: The IWW is not a trade union, everything is organized on industrial lines. Take a restaurant for example. Sometimes you have cook unions, wait staff unions, and they can actually compete against each other, and scab against each other during strikes. If the cooks want more money, but the waiters don't feel like it's their priority, then they can choose to continue working. But, the IWW's strategy is one big union, so that all the workers in the workplace belong to the same union, and they aren't gong to scab each other. There are separate industrial unions for cooks and garbage men, but if there's a strike they won't - the wobbly garbage men - won't pick up the trash from the restaurant that the striking cooks are from. It will be one big union.

What's the fundamental difference between the IWW as a union, and other unions?

E: Not that much these days, a lot of unions have learned tactics from the IWW like direct organizing and organizational structure. I would say the difference, historically, is the IWW has always valued civil liberties as well. It was the first union to recognize everybody as equal members: women and immigrants, everybody had the same rights and membership status. There is definitely radical ideology associated with the IWW that goes beyond just dealing with labor issues.

I.W.W.

This interview is an excerpt from a discussion that we had with a couple of Wobblies from Portland. We'll call them A and E.



How did each of you find out about the IWW?

A: At a very young age I saw a homeless man digging through the dumpster in Portland. That's when I became aware of poverty, homelessness, and social injustice. That's when I became a radical. When I got to high school I started getting into punk rock and through that I got anarchism, and from anarchism I started looking for some concrete examples of revolutionary politics- a real revolutionary organization that wasn't hierarchical. I learned about the Spanish Civil War and how the workers organized kicking the bosses out and running production themselves. I was pretty impressed with that, then picked up a pamphlet at Laughing Horse about Wobblies. I read Wobblies helped stop ships that were sending arms to the fascists, or they would go over and fight with the Spanish Civil War militias. As a working person myself, I realized that we needed a defense, and an offense. It was very appealing to me. Now I've been a Wobbly for six years.

E: Me, too, six years. When I first started working, though, one of my first jobs was one of those typically crappy teenage jobs- at a movie theater in Ohio. I remember hearing about the Projectionists Unions up in Cleveland and a group of us started talking union without even knowing what it meant, really. But we saw that the management recognized what we were doing and started behaving in ways that suggested that there was really power in that word. That made an impact. Then, years later, I visited a print shop that was cooperatively organized, so the workers were the ones that make the decisions on how the business was run, and it was a very eye opening experience for me. Eventually I met somebody who was traveling through town, who told me about the IWW. It took a couple years, but I settled down in Portland where there was an active branch and I could actually contact someone in person and sign up.

Do you think it is keeping itself too much in the radical circle? The jobs you mention, bike messengers and cafe workers, is this just in the network of punk, radical DIY scene or is it reaching beyond that?

A: You would be surprised how many bike messengers and natural food workers are not like that, and they are working people making a living. I think one of the things about the IWW that is important to remember is that it is radical, but it is radical on a practical level. The constitution of the IWW doesn't say anything about a certain "isms." It says we deserve all of what we make. It does appeal to regular working people on that level. It isn't really saying anything crazy when you boil it down to "we're getting ripped off and they're stealing our labor."

E: It is interesting to see people respond to it- especially the people who wouldn't be introduced to it at the literature table at the punk rock show. Some of the most enthusiastic people behind the drive are just people who happened to stumble into it, and who are maybe introduced to it through their co-workers. I remember particularly some of the Nature's organizing campaign, there were a handful of people who you wouldn't necessarily identify as being part of a subculture who were really into it, because they felt like they could correct some of the problems they had at work, and they really wanted to change and improve their workplaces. Also, I think some of those industries that are most likely to be organized are occupied by people who are economically marginalized, and so, you know, people who choose different lifestyles, like punk rock or other subcultural "alternative" lifestyles are relegated to a certain kind of job, and those jobs are usually pretty crummy. The pay is low, and the conditions are pretty crappy.

A: In the founding convention, that was what the Wobblies were aiming for, grabbing the most downtrodden workers and bringing them up.

What is the IWW concentrating its efforts on now? What are the major groups it is organizing?

A: Keep in mind that, really, the IWW is an organization that operates from the bottom up, so the concentration is where ever the workers want it to be. So, locally if there is a group of workers who decide to organize and want the assistance of the union, they'll contact the IWW and they'll organize the shop for themselves. It really is a union that what you put into it is what you get out.

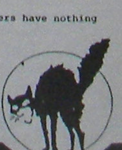
E: There is no committee or organization within the IWW that decides, "well, hey we think it would be strategic to organize within this certain cafe or grocery store." If workers are willing to do it, and they really think there is a need for it, then they'll do it themselves. Become part of the IWW and then organize it themselves. It happens to be that the strength of organizing locally, there is a pretty big presence in the social service fields, and a lot of natural foods workers, bike messengers. Mostly those drives are started by people who haven't been satisfied with their individual working conditions and have had the desire to make a change. They either had friends in the IWW, or read about it somewhere and decided that they could contact some folks and try to make things better.

What do you see for the future of the IWW?

E: We're building our union locally, nationally, internationally- lately in Portland we've been strengthening our internal and operating structure, as well as working on organizing drives. We're doing outreach and holding classes and workshops. Education is one of the three principles of the IWW: Education, Organization, and Emancipation. It's a fun way to get involved. People who conduct the classes are the membership themselves. If somebody is interested in a particular topic, they'll read about it and teach other people who are interested what they learned. It's not someone coming in from headquarters, just somebody who has done their homework who wants to share with other people.

A: The schools aren't doing it for the working class, they're teaching us how to punch a timecard, but they're not teaching us about our history.

E: It's the same fight, the same issues. The employing class and the workers have nothing in common. It's still the same.



For more information about the IWW, contact:
www.iww.org
or General Headquarters of the IWW: P.O. Box 13476 Philadelphia, PA 19101 USA
or, in Portland: Portland Industrial District Council IWW Hall: 616 East Burnside St.
97214
503-231-5488

A lot of people see the IWW was strongest in the early part of the century. There seems to be a resurgence right now, why is it springing back?

E: I think the membership dropped so low initially, because of all the government repression and the laws that were created to dissuade union membership. People were indicted on sketchy charges just for being members of the IWW. I don't know what exactly about the political climate has spawned a resurgence. The relationship of a worker's earning power and the cost of living seems to be similar to the conditions back in the early days. People are working more and making less. Lots of people working long hours, and not making much money doing it.

There seems to be a big presence in Portland. Is it like that across the country?

E: Portland is a pretty active city, but there are branches springing up now in other states that haven't had an IWW presence for a long time. We just learned that there are 3 new branches that just formed in Texas within the last year or so. The Mid-West seems to be pretty active, and the East coast, too.

A: A couple branches in Australia, Canada, England, Germany. It's getting big again. There is a big push right now in translating a lot of the literature.

How would someone unionize? How much guidance is available?

A: You would be IWW already, and go to a business meeting. They elect 2 experienced organizers who will help you start the organizing committee at your work. Five people are on the organizing committee, so you find a nucleus of people. We'll help until you get on your feet; until all you need is a picket line.

E: I think another reason that people don't like unions is they are suspicious of people who don't work at a particular jobsite or shop coming in and telling them what to do. I think lately the union busting material that we have seen is focused on that. This material would have one believe that if you bring in a union, well- if you think things are bad now they'll be worse because you will have two bosses, the union and the management. With the IWW it's not that way at all. We leave it up to the individual worker to proceed at a rate that seems appropriate to them. If they want more help they can get more help, if they just want a hands-off approach they can have that, too.

What is the process of becoming a Wobbly?

A: Just verifying the fact that you're a worker, and not a boss, not someone who has the power to hire and fire. You can find contacts through the internet, or through the Industrial Worker, the newspaper of the union. In some cities you can just go down to the hall. All workers are welcome and encouraged to join. There is a dues structure but it's sliding scale based on income. The dues are really low, from $3 for the unemployed, to $6 for average income. Generally people associate unions with taking a lot of money form your paycheck, which the IWW does not do. You actually have to seek out a delegate to pay your dues. It's kind of an honor system type of thing.

You could be an IWW member and no one at your job would necessarily know you were a member?

E: I've done that, where I've had jobs and been the only IWW member or union member on the job. I think the benefit of that is knowing you have a support network. Just in case you need legal support, or people with experience who know what to do if you are being subjected to some questionable policy that management has imposed, or some kind of potentially legal situation. You always have the support of the group, and you are never alone. Even if you are the only person on the job who is part of the IWW you always have the resources and you always have the organization watching your back, so to speak. There is one case where a wobbly at a restaurant was illegally fired for having a short till, I think it was. I don't remember the details, but it was clear that she was illegally fired, and she went to her friends at the IWW, and discussed ways to approach the problem. Everyone agreed they would go in together and discuss the problem with the boss. They went prepared, having done research and had direct references of the law, and she was reinstated, and also got some back pay.

Why do you think people have a distaste for unions?

A: It seems like the typical business unions these days are very bureaucratic and the best things bureaucrats do is support themselves. Some guy will show up and be kind of 'rah the union' for a while and then take off and leave us not knowing what to do. I think one of the most important things to remember is when you are a IWW you are doing the work. There is not third party, no bureaucratic guy coming down to tell you what to do, it's just going to be your decisions in the organizing committee or the shop floor.

You have a new hall in Portland, what are you using it for?

E: We have the meetings of all the different committees and unions within the IWW there, and use it as a community meeting space for other groups, and for just dropping by. We share the office space, so there are a couple of different groups in the hall. I think our membership base supports the infrastructure of the hall just fine. It's been working out well, and I think it's generated more interest. It opened, officially, May Day, 2002.

Don't swallow that corporate swill

By Abram Goldman-Armstrong

Despite commitments to organic food and non-corporate lifestyles, many people still drink mass-produced corporate beer. Many claim it is an economic decision, but when you're paying high prices for organically grown food, stop and think- wouldn't you rather pair it with something brewed locally, and maybe even with organic ingredients? Supporting local craft brewers is one way to take your beer dollars back from the corporations, though the price difference is significant. Homebrewing provides an economical DIY route to better beer. For an initial investment of less than $75, you can leave behind the corporate swill.

A few multinational corporations rule the beer world, Anheuser-Busch is the largest, followed by SAB (South African Breweries, who recently acquired Miller from RJ Reynolds), Belgian giants Interbrew are third, and Holland's Heineken are fourth. These large conglomerates do produce some good beers, but they often buy breweries just to shut them as Miller did with Blitz-Weinhard brewery in 1999. As any Portlander knows, the closure of this brewery cost the city more than just the jobs of the brewers and packaging employees. It also opened up the neighborhood for the wrecking ball of gentrification. Many surronding small counter-culture businesses were priced out of the area. Now Miller brews Henrys in Tumwater and still claims to be the "West's Oldest Brewery." Before they shut the Blitz-Weinhard plant it had been the longest continuously operating brewery in the country.

Pabst brewing company sold its last remaining brewery last spring to become a paper-only entity, contracting production out to Miller in the US. For some reason Pabst is quite popular, though it is contract-brewed at Tumwater and no longer at any of its own breweries. When Pabst closed their original Milwaukee, WI plant, a huge backlash ensued as locals refused to drink beer from a company with so little respect for their employees. Ironically, it is Pabst that wets the lips of many a self-styled activist.

Enough about the politics of beer. Far from the world of the Busches and Millers who brew hundreds of millions of barrels of beer every year are those who brew for themselves and their friends. Homebrewing soared in popularity Prohibition and experienced a revival in the 1970's and 80's as people became more interested in different beer styles. Every American 18 years of age and up, can brew up to 200 gallons of homebrew a year. The age was specified when Jimmy Carter signed the National Homebrewing Act in 1977, officially legalizing the hobby for the first time since Prohibition. This created an interesting legal, gray area: an 18 year old can buy home brewing equipment and brew but isn't allowed to drink their own products.

Anyone who knows how to clean and sterilize things can become a good brewer. Brewing is about 90% cleaning. Because if any bacteria or wild yeast gets into the fermenting beer (called wort) before the alcohol is created some terrible off-flavour may occur. Infections can cause beer to turn sour or gush out of the bottle. The brewing process is quite simple, especially when using malt extract.

The full brewing process includes mashing, when the starches in malted barley are converted into sugars by the naturally occurring enzymes in the barley. Malt extract is the concentrated result of this process, and simplifies brewing considerably, and reduces the brew day to about 3-4 hours instead of the 6-8 it can take for a full-mash (all-grain -brew). What you will need- A large pot and spoon, two food-grade 5 or 6 gallon buckets with lids, or glass carboys, stoppers and airlocks, a nylon grain/hop bag, a spigot for one bucket, 5-6 feet of plastic tubing for transferring beer, a bottle-filler, two-cases of pry-top bottles-(rinse them when you empty them and cleaning will be a lot easier), a capper, bottle caps, cleaner (PBW is both effective and environmentally friendly) and sanitizer (Iodophor an iodine based sanitizer works well).

Ingredients- Beer consists of water, malt, hops, and yeast, I've provided a basic recipe below, but once you've brewed a few batches you can start experimenting. Organic barley malt is available at some homebrew shops, though you may have to ask.

D.I.Y. politics of: HOME BREWING

Stout

1# roast barley
1# chocolate male
1/2# unmalted wheat
7# Amber malt extract syrup
1 oz Cascade hops
1oz East Kent Goldings hops
1 tube Wyesat American Ale Yeast 1056, or package dry ale yeast
2/3 cup corn sugar for priming

Put the grains in a reusable nylon grain bag or cheesecloth and put them in 3 gallons of water in your pot. Allow them to steep for about 20 minutes as you heat the water. Do not let them boil. Remove the bag and bring the water to a boil. Add the malt extract, stirring to avoid scorching. Bring to a boil.

Add the Cascade hops (these will contribute to the bitterness which comes from the resins in the hops), boil for 60 minutes, add the East Kent Goldings hops, (these will give the beer its hop flavor from the essential oils of the hops). Boil for two more minutes.

Then cool your wort (unfermented beer) by floating the brewpot in a bath of cold water. Cool to about 80F and then add it to the sanitized carboy/fermentation bucket.

Top up with water and slosh it around with a sterile spoon to introduce air to your wort. The yeast feeds off oxygen while producing CO2 and alcohol.

Pitchable yeast tubes from Wyeast or White Labs are expensive but insure a quick start to the fermentation, though dry yeasts will also work quite well and cost much less. Add the yeast. Put on a sanitized airlock.

Put the beer in a dark place between 65-80F to ferment for 5 days.

Transfer it and let it sit in second container for 2 weeks and then bottle.

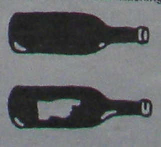
When bottling, boil corn sugar in 1 pint of water and add it to the beer (this will ferment in the bottle providing carbonation).

Make sure to clean and sanitize your bottles well.

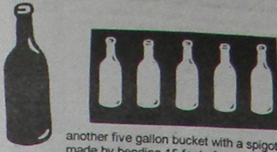
A bottle filler saves the beer from spilling but a simple spigot bucket will also work.

Now the hardest part- wait 2 weeks for the beer to mature. Then, drink and enjoy.

All-grain brewing is a little more complicated. You will need more equipment, but the ingredient cost is lower. What you'll need: A mash tun, a good thermometer, a propane burner and tank, a kettle with at least a 10-gallon capacity, and a wort-chiller. Don't let this equipment scare you. A simple mash tun can be constructed by drilling hundreds of 1/8" holes in the bottom of a five gallon bucket and stacking inside of another five gallon bucket with a spigot. A wort chiller can be made by bending 15 feet of copper tubing into a spiral that will fit in your brew kettle and attaching garden hose fittings to the ends. A propane burner is needed as most ranges cannot heat the large volumes of liquid you will be dealing with when brewing.



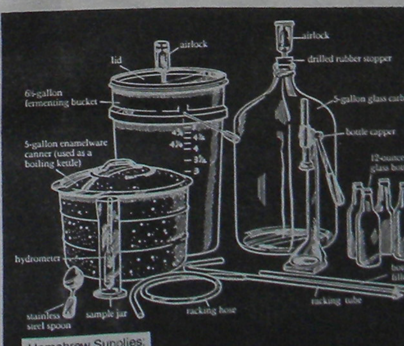
some illustrations stolen from:
"Making Beer" -William Mares
"The Complete Handbook of Homebrewing" -Dave Miller



Mashing- the why and how. Barley kernels contain starch stored up for use by the plant when it germinates. After germination naturally occurring enzymes in the barley covert these starches in sugars the barley plant would use as it grew. In the malting process the barley is dried out just as this conversion process is beginning, this way it can be stored easily. The purpose of mashing is to finish converting these starches into sugars, such as maltose, which the yeast will then covert into alcohol, and other non-fermentable sugars which give the beer body and mouthfeel.

The simplest type of mash is what is known as single infusion, ore "one-step" mashing. This is well suited for most ales, and most types of malt. Basically the enzymes that convert starches to sugars function best at temperatures between 148F and 158F, 152-154F is a good range for most medium-bodied normal alcohol beers. The easiest way to hit this temperature is to heat your water (generally one quart per pound of grain) to 168F then add the grain. It ought to stabilize right around the desired temperature. Do not let the mash get too hot. Temperatures in excess of 160F will kill the enzymes and you will be left with watery low-alcohol beer. Keeping an extra half-gallon of cold water handy to throw in if this happens is a good idea. Hold the mash at the desired temperature for 90 minutes (a good way to do this is in a picnic cooler, then start sparging.

Sparging means washing the grain with 168F water to wash off the newly converted sugars. A simple way to sparge is heat your water, put it in your bottling bucket with a hose attached set it above the mash tun and let it run over the mash as the wort runs off into the brew kettle. Once you've collected your wort start the boil just as you would with extract. After the boil you will need to use the wort chiller to bring the temperature down quickly to avoid infection, as you will be boiling your entire volume of liquid, not adding water to the fermenter as with extract. The spent, or mashed grain makes great compost and should not be too sweet to the taste. Sweet spent grain is a sign of poor conversion of starch into sugars.



Homebrew Supplies:

FH Steinbart, 234 SE 12th and Pine, 503-232-8793- these folks have been selling brewing supplies since 1912, so they know what its all about.

Let's Brew, 9021 NE Killingsworth, 503-256-0205

All Grain Organic Amber- 5 gallons

Malt
12# Breiss Organic 2-Row
3# Breiss Organic Crystal
Hops- Organic hops are rather hard to come by, so use them if you can find them
2 oz. New Zealand Pacific Gem (Bittering, in boil 60 minutes) (or substitute conventional Centennial)
1 oz. German Hallertauer (flavour five minutes)
Wyeast 1056 American Ale

Recommended reading:

Charlie Papazian, *The New Complete Joy of Homebrewing*- the home brewer's bible, this easy reading book will help any beginning brewer

Ray Daniels, *Designing Great Beers*- in depth investigations of historical examples of beer styles.

Abram Goldman-Armstrong made his first homebrew, a cider recipe from Profane Existence magazine, in 1995, and has been brewing ever since, he writes for a number of regional and national beer publications.

I went to Palestine for a month in July and August of 2002. I traveled to Palestine to be part of an international solidarity movement for peace and to help try and end the occupation of Palestine by Israel. Here are some observations and reflections from that trip. The trip was full of contradictions. Very little of what I found in Palestine and Israel was easy or simple. In many ways, it was an extremely frustrating experience to write or speak about. Myself, I am a Jewish American boy from an upper middle class family, while not being rabid Israeli nationalists is definitely Zionist. I was raised to fear Arabs and think that they wanted to kill me. I was raised to hold Israel in this divine light of purity. "Sure Israel wasn't perfect, but it was a courageous country that had struggled through its purity of arms, and its sheer resourcefulness to fight off the ravaging hordes of evil darkies surrounding it." It took years and years of reading and communicating before I was able to look Israel squarely in the eye to hold an opinion based on fact, not early socialization.

So, I left for Israel with a commitment to work in solidarity with the Palestinians' national struggle, yet I was also doubtful. I was plagued with doubts about what exactly I was getting myself into. And for whom I would be working. I left knowing that Israel was founded in a classic colonialist model by European Jews from the late 1800's to 1948. I knew that Palestine (i.e., the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the "67" not "48") had been under a repressive military occupation for over 30 years. That the Israeli army has a well-known history of targeting civilian populations for deterrence and retaliation. And by that I mean, destroying whole peasant villages, men, women and children, shelling them with artillery, sending in tanks, etc....

But, the Palestinians aren't perfect either. Arafat is widely regarded throughout the world and Palestine to be corrupt. The fundamentalist, Islamic stance on women's liberation leaves much to be desired. The targeting of civilian populations for retaliation, and by that I mean the detonation of bombs in the middle of civilian crowds going shopping for onions or something, is not too highly regarded.

So there was definitely some ambiguity in my "fighting spirit." (i.e. I'm not brainwashed/blind to reality.) In the political situation, there was also ambiguity. OK, take Israel as a whole. Israel is a established fact. Something like 7 million people live their as citizens. They are highly industrialized. They have one of the most potent military forces in the world. They are a nuclear power. They are going to be around in some form or another. Yet they were established by ethnic cleansing, land theft and global, political deal-making. Unlike the United States, my home, Israel's process of murdering or getting the indigenous population "out of the picture" is still in full swing. Israel is still taking care of the embarrassing fact that they stole their land and that the land had previous owners who are still around and pissed about it. As a result, Israel may be fucked up, but you have to make some kind of deal with them or else they will drop a nuclear bomb on you which wouldn't help very much. Luckily, the vast majority of the Palestinian populace has recognized this and they aren't asking for the ethnic cleansing or genocide of Israel.

In short, the Palestinians want one of two things: A single, democratic, secular state in the area or a two-state solution with a Palestinian state comprising of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. While some Israelis would be fine with a single democratic secular state, the majority of them, especially the diehard Zionists among them, are scared shitless of that idea. The Zionist dream is of course a dream of a Jewish homeland in Israel (and probably most of Jordan, Syria, Southern Lebanon, and the Sinai). The idea of a Jewish homeland must have been rather appealing to World Jewry right after 6 million of them were killed during WW2, but imagine the Christians in the U.S. demanding that the US should be a Christian state. A Palestinian peer of mine named Ahmoud once said, "What the fuck? They want a JEWISH state? Now? In this day and age? Do they think it is 1600 or something?" (It should be mentioned that most of my peers in Palestine had all been tortured and imprisoned for "political activity." Ahmoud, for example, had been a member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and was arrested during the first Intifada and imprisoned for 5 years.) Anyway, the Israelis would never accept a single state solution because they are scared of "the demographic problem."

While the majority of Israelis are willing to give up land for peace and allow the Palestinians their state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the Israeli elite do not want a real state to be formed. Their vision is closer to the old vision of the South African Apartiedists' (who happen to be their old buddies via USA global hegemony) mini-state Bantustans. The Israeli elite would prefer to wash their hands of the civil administration of Palestine. Of course, the Israeli elite would like to wash their hands of them because quite frankly the Palestinians are a pain in their ass, as are other systemically impoverished and oppressed populaces. But that doesn't mean that the Israelis want to lose access to an impoverished and therefore easily controlled and cheap workforce, or access to the water underneath Palestinian soil. The area is, after all, a desert.

There are tons of ambiguities. Jerusalem, horrible atrocities committed by both sides Israeli's economic penetration into the Occupied Territories and the Palestinians' need for jobs, even ones that foster economic dependence. I could go on and on.

Once I was actually in the West Bank, everything was clear. I'm serious. It was crystal fucking clear. The Palestinians live under a straight-up military occupation. A foreign military force of vast size and power controls almost every facet of their life. Their movement, access to their families, access to medical services, access to food, to water, to work, to money, to their agricultural land, to education, to the outside world, etc.... The Israeli soldiers, those poor nervous and scared 18-20 year old kids and their sadistic older brothers, are an omnipresent force in Palestinians every day life.

It's crazy. There is no economy. The majority of Palestinians are out of work and have been so for 1-2 years. During curfew days, which was almost every day I was there, you had to stay inside the house or risk being shot. True, the soldiers do not shoot every person they see, or even the majority. Sometimes they just shoot "rubber bullets." Of course, the rubber bullets have a steal core the size of a 45mm slug, if not bigger. Sometimes they "just" shoot at your feet or over your head. But enough people are shot that every Palestinian knows someone who has been hit. Once shot, there's a less than 50% chance of being allowed to go to a hospital. Don't worry the Israeli army will put you in an ambulance, but then they'll detain the ambulance till you have died. A Palestinian with a gun wound doesn't have much of a chance in Palestine. The vast majority of Palestinians shot down in their home-town streets by the occupying Israeli military were probably just visiting a neighbor or trying to sneak out to get bread or something, or they could be playing soccer in the streets. Israeli soldiers seem to be awfully scared and hateful of 9 year old Palestinian soccer players who should be locked up inside their homes with their mothers and sisters. There is a good chance that their father was already killed, is in jail or is hiding in Israel, being used as a slave laborer.

When you drive around Palestine it is striking. There are all these weird fucking suburban neighborhoods dotted on hilltops in the middle of the desert. They have green lawns and swimming pools. New model cars and busses drive in an out of them on the nicest asphalt roads I have ever seen. They have armed guards, often military, protecting them from behind 4-meter-tall, security fences surrounding the neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are the settlements. It's true that not all settlements are like this, but most are. It is so obvious, the settlers are stealing land. They are stealing water. They are invaders and colonialists.

I visited a settlement for a day. It was striking to watch all these nice clean and "decent" Jewish families walk around armed to the fuckin teeth. And you know why, because they had stolen someone else's land and they were scared. Hell, half of the settlers don't even really believe in the weird fucked up version of Jewish nationalism known as Zionism. They just simply wanted a decent place to raise their families. And their government was so willing to subsidize their move and help them out. Then they get there and they are surrounded by crazy fucking fascist/racist ideological settlers. Of course, they're surrounded by the impoverished Palestinian nation that would like to, maybe, go work their olive fields that were just stolen from them. Many of the economic settlers want to leave, but they can't. The Israeli government helped them move there but they won't help them leave. Almost no one in their right fucking mind wants to buy a house in the middle of a hostile, native population that rightly thinks that you want to kill them or steal their land. (As a sidenote, some Zionist politicians like to say, "There already is a Palestinian country, Jordan." I sure wish that I could make something as horrible as ethnic cleansing sound so pithy.)

Through it all, the majority of Palestinians that I met were amazing. Amazing and traumatized. I met all these rad, friendly, hospitable people. People to make you laugh and cry. The Palestinians that I met were amazingly politicized and well-educated. I did not meet only members of the elite. I met the everyday people. It was hard to speak to them. Not because my Arabic is so horrible, but because they were all so honest and true. Their lives had been hard enough before the current intifada, and for the last two years their lives have been on hold or even terminated. "All I do is eat, sleep, and watch TV. I can't even go outside or I will be shot. Why??? How can the American people do this to us? Why do you love the Israelis and give them their weapons and money while we suffer and hunger? They say God gave them this land. They are from New York and Russia. I am from outside Haifa. And yet I live here. My daughter was to go to school in Nablus. She can't now. You elect Bush. They elect Sharon. It is crazy. Like if we elect Hamas." My group and I were probably the only internationals to whom most of them had been able to talk. Therefore, when talking to me they were talking to the world. To the uncaring world. And I would hear of every son killed, every house destroyed and every dream buried and lost.

I wish I had some kind of conclusion to this, but I don't. Extreme abject poverty and military occupations are evil if anything is. Life is hard enough without living under the military occupation of a foreign, capitalist army. It is hard enough struggling against your own, more local, capitalist occupiers.

ART BY JOSH MacPHEE

communique from palestine

I'm currently in Qalquilia, Palestine. I am doing well. Here is an update from the last week of my life:

We arrived in Qalquilia last Sunday. After a few small problems getting through the military checkpoint, we were transported to the Municipality building and introduced to the Mayor. So begins our adventure. But first, a little about the city.

Qalquilia is a small city of 40,000 people. It is situated directly on the green line separating Palestine and Israel. 70% of the population are refugees from the mass displacement of Palestinians in 1948. In 1967, when Israel conquered the West Bank during the Six Day War, 15,000 residents of Qalquilia became refugees. In 1970, some of those refugees returned when King Husseni expelled the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization)from Jordan in September of that year. As a result of the high refugee population and the current military occupation, this city faces huge issues of poverty (70% of the pop.), unemployment and lack of access to services.

Since the start of this current intifada, Qalqilia has been under military curfew since January of 2001. The military has bulldozed a ring road around the city and confiscated all property on the western side of the city outside that road. The mayor stated that over 40% of the population of Qalqilia is dependent on agricultural lands for work. This current confiscation amounted to several thousand dunums (sq. kilometers) of land. The wall being built which will separate the West Bank from Israel proper will pass right along the edge of this road. In addition, municipal sources report that the army will encircle the entire city in a similar wall on the other three sides. The city used to have five or more main access points to the city. The military has blocked off all of these access roads except for two, one solely used for the military. This leaves, for the populace, one way in and one way out. And of course, this is where the checkpoint is.

In general, the checkpoint has severely restricted the movement of the local populace. People can not leave to go work (the majority of the populace used to work in Israel proper), to see their families, go to school or live their lives. In addition, the military restricts the export of products to the world and the import of items such as animal feed, packaging, etc.. Basically, the checkpoint nearly paralyzes the local Palestinian economy. However, the military often does allow the import of Israeli products. Of course, there isn't much income to purchase these.

Once we entered Qaliqilia, we set about trying to figure out the scene. With whom should we work? How can we help? Where can we stay? Etc. This was difficult considering that we did not get any leads from the other ISM folks. In short, after spending two days of being treated like a delegation by the mayor sand local politicians, we began to make solid contacts with the local grassroots.

It should be noted that it was extremely strange for me to be feasted by the local head of Fatah. He was a nice man, but we really didn't understand each other. By the way, he was just arrested a few days ago, his uncle's home was demolished for no apparent reason and quite possibly his neighbor's home too.

As for me, I have mainly been working with the Palestinian Red Crescent Society. The PRCS is a local affiliate of the Red Cross. The PRCS is a locally run emergency response organization that at least in this city is comprised of an emergency clinic and a rapid response emergency ambulance team.

The military has fostered this image that the PRCS is used to run guns, bombs, terrorists, etc. They do this by arresting someone in an ambulance, highly publicizing their arrest, and then quietly letting them out with charges dropped a few days later. This is ridiculous. In my admittedly short time here, I have seen nothing which does not strictly conform to the international law concerning the conduct of medics given in the 4th Geneva Convention.

I am neither an EMT nor a paramedic, however I am a gringo. And that accords me certain privileges. I am able to somewhat lessen violence used by the Israeli military. I can speak English to the soldiers and facilitate the transfer of the ambulances through checkpoints and I can make friends with the local ambulance crew whom are all, with out exception, highly traumatized not only by their high-stress work and position as a member of an occupied nation, but due to the somewhat arbitrary harassment and violence done upon them by members of the Israeli Army.

In the last four days, I have made friends with quite a few folks who work at the PRCS. It is apparent that these are strong, intelligent, and caring people who are suffering extreme psychological trauma. They exhibit classic symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Their stories are hair-raising and exceptional. The day to day basics of being held at gunpoint, made to strip, made to debase themselves and act like it is alright are beneath mention. Those are simply what they have to face in order to transport their patients from home to hospital. Their stories are filled with gunshots from snipers, patients dying due to the military forcing them to wait at checkpoints (often apparently on purpose), arbitrary incarceration for a month, etc..

I could tell their stories but, to be honest, my own of the last 4 days are enough. And I am a gringo, not subject to the worst.

For example, on a single routine trip to Nablus, a big city about 15 miles away and containing several hospitals, with several patients, we were stopped four times.

The first time was through the single Qalquilia checkpoint. They forced everyone out of the ambulance. However, they didn't search anyone. They collected everyone's ID, although they didn't call them in. They took most of the things out of the ambulance, but they didn't really search them. They simply made us wait. And harassed us.

One time, we came upon a group of 50 or so Palestinians that were being held in the sun without water or shade by two jeeps of Israeli soldiers. The soldiers wouldn't talk to us about why the Palestinians were being held. Instead, they made us wait for 30 minutes.

The fourth time, we came upon two tanks. One tank pointed its cannon at us and we had to wait 20 minutes before we were allowed to proceed. One soldier wanted to talk to me about basketball and asked, "So which team do you favor here? Arab or Israeli?" At this point, we thought we were home free, but when we were driving into the outskirts of Nablus, two shots rang out. One hit our ambulance and the other kicked up dust in front of it. Israeli snipers had set up shop on top of an abandoned apartment building and were sniping at people who were trying to skirt the checkpoints. I don't think that they were aiming to kill, only to scare us. However, they did shoot into the back of a crowded ambulance. My passport offered little protection from that. Overall, we were forced to wait for more than an hour due to Israeli restrictions. The trip from Qalquilia to Nablus should be done in 20 minutes, however our emergency-response ambulance couldn't make it in twice that. Luckily, we didn't have any critical patients, only patients going to hospital for back surgery, gall-bladder operations and such.

(This update was just interrupted by an ambulance call. Myself and two EMTs went to a nearby hospital to pick up a young man and take him home. This young man was beaten by Israeli soldiers today. He was out working his father's olive tree grove. Soldiers beat him severely. They blackened his face, broke both of his wrists and/or hands and broke both of his ankles.)

Unlike the story before the interruption, this one is not common place. One day, two paramedics/EMTs and myself were returning from Nablus. We got a call. There was a man injured by soldiers and we need to go get him and take him to a hospital. We passed through the soldiers' checkpoint. They say almost nothing to us. About 200 yards later, Israeli soldiers jump out in front of us with rifles aimed. They take cover behind trees and wave us out. I sing out in my best English. "Hello! We are trying to reach a patient! I am an American! What is going on!" This time it didn't work so well.

The soldiers say, "Hands up! Shirt up! Pants down! Spin around! Hands on your head! Come, sit down." Then, "You are American, right? Go to the ambulance and open all the doors." (It is illegal to use civilians as human shields this way.) I open the doors. They cleared the ambulance making sure there was no threat. We were told we could not continue. Of course, this is the only way into Qalquilia.

We end up turning around and somehow finding another way through an alley. We eventually got near the man who was shot but soldiers will not allow us to tend to him. The soldiers have a history of letting people they shot die. Eventually, we got in and the EMTs stabilized the man. He was shot three times. Stomach, leg and wrist.

According to his neighbors and family who saw it, he was standing with his hands above his head in front of the soldiers. Then he got scared and lurched to the side. He was shot for it. After he was stabilized, an Israeli army ambulance arrived and took him away to Israel. He is supposedly in critical condition and may not live. But who knows the truth?

Another story not about ambulance work: one morning, after six hours sleep after being on ambulance duty for 16 hours, I was awakened by a knock on our dormitory door. "Get up. Get dressed. The soldiers are going house to house in this neighborhood by the school." We threw on our clothes, and went down to be witnesses to the searches. We were scared of walking around a tank in front of us to simply show our presence. We were scared of being shot at by jumpy soldiers. We asked a neighbor where would be a good place to approach. He took us through his backyard to get there. On the way there, he spoke with someone and changed his course. We had to go visit a house first. The family was strangely subdued. As we were walking to the backstairs, I saw spots of blood on the floor and up the stairs.

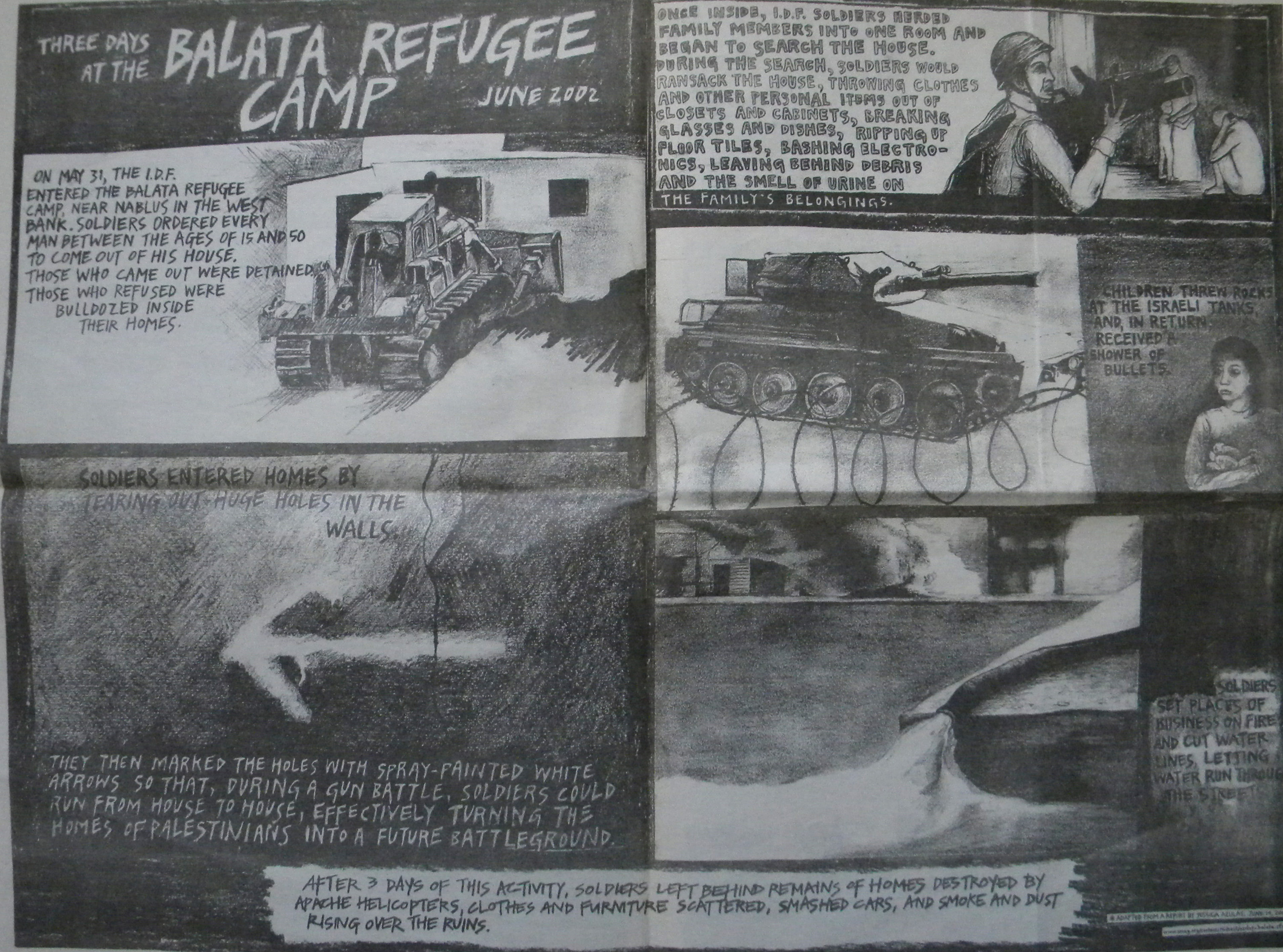
"Our son was shot this morning." A sense of true dread comes over me. The blood trail continues. In the kitchen, I see a large puddle of blood about a meter wide with pieces of brain in it. A spilled coffee pot was on the stove and a bullet hole through the frosted window. This man, aged 31, father of 4, named Ziad Ahmoud Lubat, was shot in the head by Israeli soldiers while making coffee and breakfast for his family. The soldier shot through a frosted plate of glass that would have rendered any image un-recognizable. When asked, the soldiers replied, "We shot into the air, maybe it fell through the window."

The family and locals wanted to try and get news of their loss to the world. We were there because the media needed internationals to accompany them. Some media arrived shortly after us and they were able to take pictures and film un-disturbed.

Ok, this is for now. I'm sorry it was so long. And that it is lacking sufficient analysis of the situation here. Take care.

THREE DAYS AT THE BALATA REFUGEE CAMP

JUNE 2002


ON MAY 31, THE I.D.F. ENTERED THE BALATA REFUGEE CAMP, NEAR NABLUS IN THE WEST BANK. SOLDIERS ORDERED EVERY MAN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 50 TO COME OUT OF HIS HOUSE. THOSE WHO CAME OUT WERE DETAINED. THOSE WHO REFUSED WERE BULLDOZED INSIDE THEIR HOMES.
ONCE INSIDE, I.D.F. SOLDIERS HERDED FAMILY MEMBERS INTO ONE ROOM AND BEGAN TO SEARCH THE HOUSE. DURING THE SEARCH, SOLDIERS WOULD RANSACK THE HOUSE, THROWING CLOTHES AND OTHER PERSONAL ITEMS OUT OF CLOSETS AND CABINETS, BREAKING GLASSES AND DISHES, RIPPING UP FLOOR TILES, BASHING ELECTRONICS, LEAVING BEHIND DEBRIS AND THE SMELL OF URINE ON THE FAMILY'S BELONGINGS.
CHILDREN THREW ROCKS AT THE ISRAELI TANKS AND, IN RETURN, RECEIVED A SHOWER OF BULLETS.
SOLDIERS ENTERED HOMES BY TEARING OUT HUGE HOLES IN THE WALLS.
THEY THEN MARKED THE HOLES WITH SPRAY-PAINTED WHITE ARROWS SO THAT, DURING A GUN BATTLE, SOLDIERS COULD RUN FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE, EFFECTIVELY TURNING THE HOMES OF PALESTINIANS INTO A FUTURE BATTLEGROUND.
SOLDIERS SET PLACES OF BUSINESS ON FIRE AND CUT WATER LINES, LETTING WATER RUN THROUGH THE STREET.
AFTER 3 DAYS OF THIS ACTIVITY, SOLDIERS LEFT BEHIND REMAINS OF HOMES DESTROYED BY APACHE HELICOPTERS, CLOTHES AND FURNITURE SCATTERED, SMASHED CARS, AND SMOKE AND DUST RISING OVER THE RUINS.

* ADAPTED FROM A REPORT BY JESSICA AZULAY, JUNE 14, 2002

[illegible]

eterna inocencia

Argentina has a rich history in radical social movements, anarchism social unrest, political uprisings and violent repression, dating back to the turn of the century. In the thirties, a massive government crackdown on radicals, through military force, forever changed the face of Argentina and paved the way for big business and the free market to wreak havoc on the people and their land.

The last decade has been a prosperous time for international investors but a disaster for the people. Twenty years of IMF policies, including cuts in health, education, wages and social programs, overvaluing the peso, privatization and raising taxes ruined the economy and caused a major rise in unemployment and poverty. As conditions got worse, social unrest, turmoil escalated and tension between the government and the people brought situations to a boiling point, ultimately leading to the demise.

On December 20th, 2001, due to an economic emergency, the government announced it was cutting more public spending and putting a weekly limit on withdrawals. Citizens, in an uproar, panicked and began withdraeing their savings. The government, in response, froze all assets and blocked access to bank accounts. Over one million people took to the streets and marched to the congressional building in the Plaza de Mayo, demanding an end to neoliberal economic policies. When the government tried to stop the insurrection, with violence, people reacted and lashed out against the police and the symbols of capitalism. Riots ensued, banks were smashed, people banged on pots and pans in protest, the police were battled, the congressional building was stormed and more than twenty protesters were killed. As a result, president Fernando de la Rua resigned and the government fell.

Right now, the economy and social structure is in shambles and the country is in a state of desperation and urgency, with potential for conditions to get worse. Since the fall of de la Ruather have been seven presidents in office, some only lasting one day. The current leaders of Argentina continue to negotiate with the IMF, keeping change for the better out of reach. Throughout Argentina, there is a general feeling of distrust and opposition to the government and its global free market partners, but no long term solutions or alternatives to the current situation have come about. However, amidst the devastation, people have formed neighborhood assemblies, 5,000 bartering clubs came into existence and 14 new currencies have risen from the ashes of the first. People, in response to the recently devalued peso, have begun printing their own currencies and returning to an era that preceded intervention from the West...necessary steps toward regaining control of their communities. The future is uncertain but still hopeful...

On the thin balconies of the apartments across the street, around the corner, and down the road, people were tapping rhythms. It was a warm night, around midnight. The day had been hot but it was perfect out now, and someone with talent was beating a complicated rhythm on a big metal stew pot. Other smaller, higher-pitched pans and casserole dishes were joining in up and down the block tin-tin-ta-tin-tin. It got louder. The rhythm got louder and then quieter as groups of neighbors from the balconies gathered in the street and headed downtown. I went down to the street and walked around the neighborhood, past the neighbors smiling and tapping stew pots and frying pans with metal and wooden spoons, past cafes where (at one in the morning) other neighbors were sipping espressos and beer and talking and watching the others go by, some with frowns and others with nods.

Eterna Inocencia are a group musicians/activists from Buenos Aires, *who hold a bit of this hope.* Music is their main form of expression *and through this they carry their ideas,* politics, anger and passion. *They have been playing this style of melodic punk for* more than seven years, released four cd's and toured overseas. This interview was done with Guille, the vocalist for Eterna Innocencia, in August of 2002.

The news coverage on what is going on in Argentina has been vague and incomplete, leaving people with only part of the story. Could you explain the current economic situation, the uprising, political catastrophe and the changes occuring in Buenos Aires and throughout Argentina?

12 years of neoliberalism destroyed our country. Today, 21.5% of the people are unemployed. December 20th was a good day for Argentinean people. They reclaimed the streets and the president was forced to quit, but nothing has changed since then. We don't know what's going to happen tomorrow; after three or four years of deepening economic crisis, conditions for the working class have reached a breaking point. The government is always waiting for economic assistance (IMF), but they really don't know what to do regarding political solutions. People don't believe in politicians... but, sadly, we are still far away from anarchism...

Could you explain the upsurge in neighborhood assemblies for those unaware that this is taking place?

The neighborhood assemblies were arisen starting from December 20th of 2001, the day that the government fell. Neighbors' groups met and discussed the problems that each town had and then they discussed problems of national interest. In some neighborhood assemblies, vegetable gardens were made to feed people. Now, many neighbors are trying to organize to present candidates in the next elections, and by this way, to compete with the traditional politicians. I don't agree with that, but somehow it is interesting!

What are some inspiring actions you've witnessed or heard of in recent months?

There are no actions as significant as those of seven months ago. But some meetings are interesting, for example the picketers that cut roads and routes, which are repressed violently by the police. In their last action, two of them, people's comrades - that live in our hearts - were murdered by the police. And the rulers tell to the people that we are in democracy! je!

Can you tell us alittle bit about the Picketers? How effective has their struggle been? What types of actions are they currently involved in?

The picketers are unemployed people that some years ago decided to cut routes as direct action. If the route is cut, trucks and cars aren't allowed to pass by, causing chaos in some cities. I agree with their fight form. They have gotten subsidies of money, among other things. There are three currents of picketers: Those led by D' Elia and Alderete, on one hand, and the movement Anibal Verón, of horizontal organization. I personally agree with this last group, which have several dead comrades, killed by police repression.

Has the uprising, including anti-capitalist actions, gotten much support from the average citizen? Has the economic crisis politicized a lot of "common" citizens?

Yes, the "common" people were upset, so they supported some actions. But, I must say, many of them didn't like violent actions. The mass media helped a lot to conform this kind of opinion.

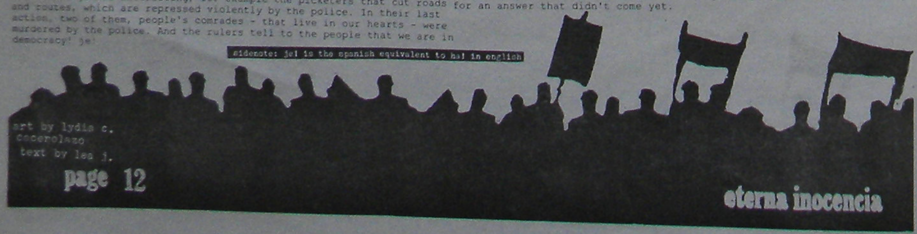
How has the economic situation affected neighboring countries?

Uruguay and Brazil have been affected by our economic crisis. But they received some money from the IMF, so the people didn't run to the street looking for a riot, je! However, it is clear that this kind of "help" sentenced Latin America to a total dependence on the first world.

What positive things have you seen come out of the crisis? What negative things have you seen?

Positive: Seeing people saying "No more!" on December 20th and trying to organize themselves without political parties. Negative: Seeing these people without the force they used to have, a few days after the riot. And hating the politicians, that seem to be like "nothing has happened here", denying the violent actions done by the people that day, looking for an answer that didn't come yet.

sidenote: je! is the spanish equivalent to ha! in english



art by lydia c.
cacerolazo
text by lea j.

How has the mainstream media been portraying everything that has been going on?

They portrayed everything as they usually do, saying that the people in the street were just revolutionaries from the left. They didn't talk about the deaths of many people and other stuff. Something positive was when the people were watching TV, seeing that the cops were fighting in the streets, a lot of them left their houses and ran to the streets. People came from everywhere. That was great.

Can you talk a little bit about the deaths that happened?

More than thirty people were murdered by the police. Most of the deaths happened when the demonstrators tried to come closer to the government building, in the Plaza de Mayo. That day you could see lot of inflamed militants. The Congress saw the battles between the demonstrators and the police. It was reported that the police responded to the aggressions of the demonstrators with rubber bullets. But the certain thing is that in the evening, many policemen didn't wear their uniforms and they shot people with real bullets. In the poor neighborhoods a lot of people also died. It was a black day for the Argentinean people.

Is their a possibility of military intervention in Buenos Aires, to "restore" order and stability?

The Armed Forces can't afford an intervention. They don't have the power or the money they used to have in the 70's. However, you can't be totally sure and say "no, it won't happen anymore".

What do you think are some possibilities for the future of Argentina? What do you hope for? What do you think is the most likely outcome?

The uncertainty is such that it is almost impossible to give you an answer. I would like people to realize that neither this democracy nor these neoliberal politics are good for anything... but at the same time I am a little fearful of worse things, as a military strike or something of that style...

How have the economic situations affected the poor and working class? How has it affected the punk/hardcore scene? How have you been affected?

The poor are poorer than ever; there is no money, there is no food and there is not an efficient system of health. Unemployment is high, and the ones that do work have poor salaries... this is the result of years of neoliberal politicians. The hardcore punk scene has been affected as much as other sectors. Regarding the economic matter, it is much more difficult to make your own cd's and cassettes these days... Gigs are a little more expensive than before, because the cost of life has increased and the wage that you receive is not the same one as some years ago. Buying instruments and strings for your guitar or your bass... everything is expensive today. But it is necessary to continue walking...

What initially got you interested in politics?

A book for children that my parents gave me. A book censored by the militaries in the 70's. Then I began to listen punk rock. And finally, I arrived to anarchism thanks to the DIY way.

Do you remember the name of the book?

Yes! The name was "An elephant occupies a lot of space", and the author is a woman named Elsa Bornemann. It is a very interesting story for children. You can find several stories on our internet page, but written in Spanish. It is a book to meditate.

Is their an anarchist movement in Buenos Aires right now?

Argentina had the biggest anarchist movement in the world at the beginning of the 20th Century. Today the anarchists are less than 1,000 people; all divided, involved in different projects. Some of them participate with the social movements, other don't do it because they consider them reformist... in short, something that happens in a large part of the world.

Could you give us a brief history of anarchism from the 70's on? How big was the movement at its peak?

Your question is very interesting, but difficult to respond for somebody like me, who knows little English. But well... The anarchist movement in the 70's was not very big. In fact, it was supposed that the anarchist movement had died definitively with the first military intervention in our country (1930). However, a group of young comrades - where we find two friends of mine, that come from the punk rock scene- have investigated a historical line with the armed groups that acted along the decade of the '70's in our country. Most of the guerilla organizations were left peronists - a strange case of Latinoamerica are the Montoneros - or Leninist Marxists, as the ERP. The anarchists had a small organization, called Libertarian Resistance, today very discussed among the anarchists. In my opinion these comrades interpreted the anarchism to be in a time of real political violence for my country. Perhaps their organization was very similar to the other armed groups, but yes, I am sure that they had an anti - authoritarian tendency. Today we cannot find books published on that work, unfortunately. But if anyone would like a paper I can send it to you. It is written in Spanish, but is really interesting.

> "It is difficult to entertain the students in the classroom. They are in crisis because they live the daily violence. They don't see any future and many times they don't study. *In my case, I try to let them understand the history of our country,* especially of the labor movement, to understand this social class, how it changed along through history and how it is today. Starting from there, we try to establish different hypothesis and we work on answers. I want them to understand that the crisis is a crisis of the capital and that the capitalist system is shit. They understand it very well!"

Where does your inspiration, motivation and drive come from? What keeps you active, aware and informed?

The social agitation that our country lives, is an incentive to stay informed and alert. I study a lot, read many books and anarchist newspapers; I teach History in high schools and I also play in a band that slowly became well known in the hardcore punk scene of my country. There are many things to say, and many things to do in my land...

What is the education system like in Buenos Aires? Do you find hope in the youth?

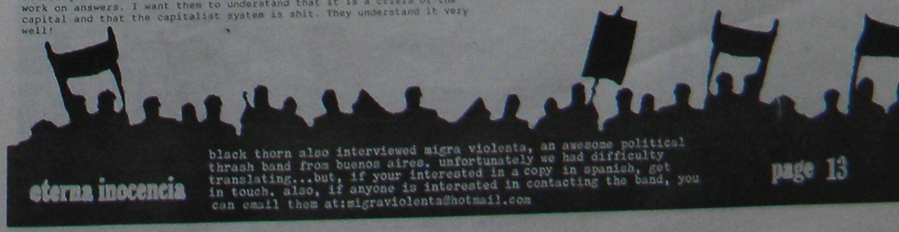
The ethical values of the education were always guided from the State in my country, like in many other places. However, the educational system today is in crisis. Teaching in high schools is more difficult these days. The daily violence is carried many times to the classroom, especially in poor schools, where I teach. But it is necessary to accept the challenge. The public school is one of the few spaces to resist the advance of the neoliberal politicians. Our politicians are trying to keep people from studying, and we, the educators, oppose it. Although our wages are not good! We do it for vocation, not for money. But money is sometimes necessary to live... It is difficult to entertain the students in the classroom. They are in crisis because they live the daily violence. They don't see any future and many times they don't study. In my case, I try to let them understand the history of our country, especially of the labor movement, to understand this social class, how it changed along through history and how it is today. Starting from there, we try to establish different hypothesis and we work on answers. I want them to understand that it is a crisis of the capital and that the capitalist system is shit. They understand it very well!

I realize the attack on the world trade center is probably the last thing on most Argentineans minds right noe, but i am curious to kn know how the public reacted to this. Could you explain some reactions you witnessed, heard of or read about, following the attack?

If I should be sincere, I would tell you that a lot of people felt a strange sensation, between the horror and the vengeance. You could listen to people in the street saying "It's terrible what happened there, but the North Americans kill a lot of people in the entire world. They condemn Latin America for the war, the hunger and the misery, but they also do it in other parts of the world... so they drank some of their own poison".

Could you share some of your thoughts, both on the attack and the after effects(the bombing of Afghanistan, the "war on terrorism", etc.)?

I don't hate the North Americans. I hate the politicians that Bush has and all their political partners and weapons' friends. When I saw the attacks on the WTC, I thought to myself: "Poor people, they are living the whole terror that they had never lived before, that Latin America has felt for many years." I have the sensation that the common American citizen doesn't have any idea of; the damage that their government does to the world. On the bombings of Afghanistan, I can tell you that I felt angry to see people indifferent watching the American attacks that killed a lot of innocent people, while they condemned the attacks on the WTC.



black thorn also interviewed migra violenta, an awesome political thrash band from buenos aires. unfortunately we had difficulty translating...but, if your interested in a copy in spanish, get in touch. also, if anyone is interested in contacting the band, you can email them at:migraviolenta@hotmail.com

NEWS

Castro calls for democracy in the U.S.

HAVANA, Cuba--Despite the pleadings of Governor Ryan of Illinois and representatives of the huge American agribusiness cartels, Fidel Castro of Cuba refused today to resume trade with the United States unless George Bush releases political prisoners, conducts independently monitored elections and accepts a list of tough conditions for "new governments in Washington -- and Florida -- that are fully democratic." He did however agree to offer political asylum to Gov. Ryan.

Castro said the United States' legacy of freedom "has been insulted by a despot who uses police methods to enforce a bankrupt vision, under the name of a 'War on Terrorism.' That legacy has been debased by a relic from another era who, with this secret police chief Ashcroft, has turned their beautiful nation into a prison."

"Without political reform, without economic reform, trade with the US will merely enrich George Bush and his cronies -- including his family and the so-called 'Carlyle Group,'" he said Monday. "It will not help the American people."

One more reason to be paranoid

WASHINGTON (AP)--The Pentagon can't keep track of hundreds of millions of dollars worth of weapons and emergency aid given to friendly countries, congressional investigators found.

The Defense Department agency that's supposed to track the donations reported about $300 million worth of transfers since 1991, while records from the four military services showed close to $725 million worth, the General Accounting Office said in a report released Friday.

Highlighting the scope of the surveillance network, TIPS volunteers are being recruited primarily from among those whose work provides access to homes, businesses or transport systems. Letter carriers, utility employees, truck drivers and train conductors are among those named as targeted recruits.

A pilot program was scheduled to start in August in 10 cities, with 1 million informants participating in the first stage.

Present Justice Department procedures mean that informant reports will enter databases for future reference and/or action. The information will then be broadly available within the department, related agencies and local police forces. The targeted individual will remain unaware of the existence of the report and of its contents.

Pentagon losing track of donations to "friendly" countries

Published on Monday, July 15, 2002 in the Sydney Morning Herald, the US is planning to recruit one in 24 Americans as citizen spies. The Terrorism Information and Prevention System, or TIPS, means the US will have a higher percentage of citizen informants than the former East Germany through the infamous Stasi secret police. The program would use a minimum of 4 per cent of Americans to report "suspicious activity".

How do most Argentineans feel about U.S policies and actions? What is the general sentiment towards North America right now in Argentina?

Most of the Argentineans are feeling rough toward the Americans. They hate their politics of hunger and neoliberalism. But that doesn't mean that if you are North American, people will attack you in the street. However, most of them would like to see death to O' Neil (U.S. Treasury Secretary) and any official of the IMF, je!

Have many bands outside Central/South America played in Argentina?

Los Crudos came from USA, then Abuso Sonoro, from Brazil... we have some comrades in Uruguay, like Pirexia... and you didn't ask this but I would like to tell you that we've played in Europe, meeting a lot of comrades along Spain, France and Switzerland.

How long was your tour? How were the shows?

The European Tour was great. We visited Spain, Euskal Herria - Basque Country -, France and Switzerland. The shows were different in each city. In Spain people were similar to people of my country. In France and Switzerland they were different. I bought many books on anarchism that I could never get in my country. And I met many new libertarian comrades with who I maintain mail still today. We also met many bands, all of them really good people. I believe that people liked to observe a Latin American band in their scene, relating our people's pain. The best gigs were in Zaragoza (Spain), Euskal Herria (where family of Basque political prisoners brought us a flag that said "Basque Prisoners to the Basque Country." Very emotive. Finally the concert in Brest, France, was the most particular. For different reasons our records were distributed to lot of people during previous years. That's why many of them sang our songs. It was like playing at home. At the moment, and because of the economic and political crisis, we cannot make tours. Not even in Latin America.

Anarchist contacts in Argentina:

Federacion Libertaria Argentina
Brasil 1551
1154 Buenos Aires, Argentina

ABC Buenos Aires
c/o Pichon
CC 3411-C100 WB1
Buenos Aires, Argentina

La Létra A
Casilla de Correo 31 Succ. 27
1427 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Biblioteca Popular Jos. Ingenieros
Ramirez de Velasco 958
1414 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Libreria El Aleph
1134 Corrientes
1043 Buenos Aires, Argentina

Federacion Obrero
Coronet Regional Argentina
Salvadores 1200
Buenos Aires, Argentina

What does Eterna Inocencia have released so far and where could someone get a copy?

Eterna Inocencia have four cd's, three of them sung in English. The last one totally sung in our language. You can write us to get a copy sending $10.00 US (postage included) to:

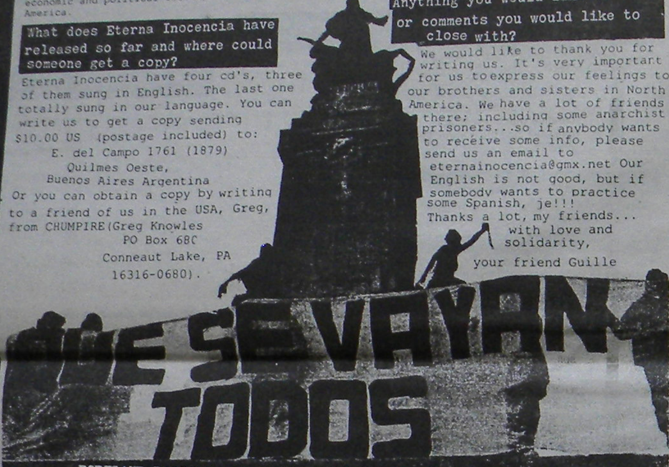
E. del Campo 1761 (1879)
Quilmes Oeste,
Buenos Aires Argentina

Or you can obtain a copy by writing to a friend of us in the USA, Greg, from CHUMPIRE(Greg Knowles
PO Box 68C
Conneaut Lake, PA
16316-0680).

Anything you would like to add or comments you would like to close with?

We would like to thank you for writing us. It's very important for us to express our feelings to our brothers and sisters in North America. We have a lot of friends there; including some anarchist prisoners...so if anybody wants to receive some info, please send us an email to eternainocencia@gmx.net Our English is not good, but if somebody wants to practice some Spanish, je!!!

Thanks a lot, my friends...
with love and
solidarity,
your friend Guille



PORTLAND RADICAL STREET FESTIVAL October 31st

Don't Be Tricked by the Free Trade Area of the Americas

On October 31, while children across the U.S. dress up as ghosts, witches, NY fire fighters and Osama bin Laden, threatening their neighbors with tricks if they don't get treats, some far scarier trickery will be attempted by business men and heads of state dressed up as trade negotiators as they meet in Ecuador to discuss the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Their meetings will be met by fierce resistance as multitudes of dissenters from across Latin America take direct action to stop the meetings. Here in Portland, we are planning a radical street festival in solidarity with those actions to denounce the expansion of neocolonialism promoted by the FTAA. By taking to the streets, we will celebrate the world we want to live in, a world where autonomy, self-organization, meaningful work and access to land are valued more highly than patents, power and profit.

What is the FTAA?

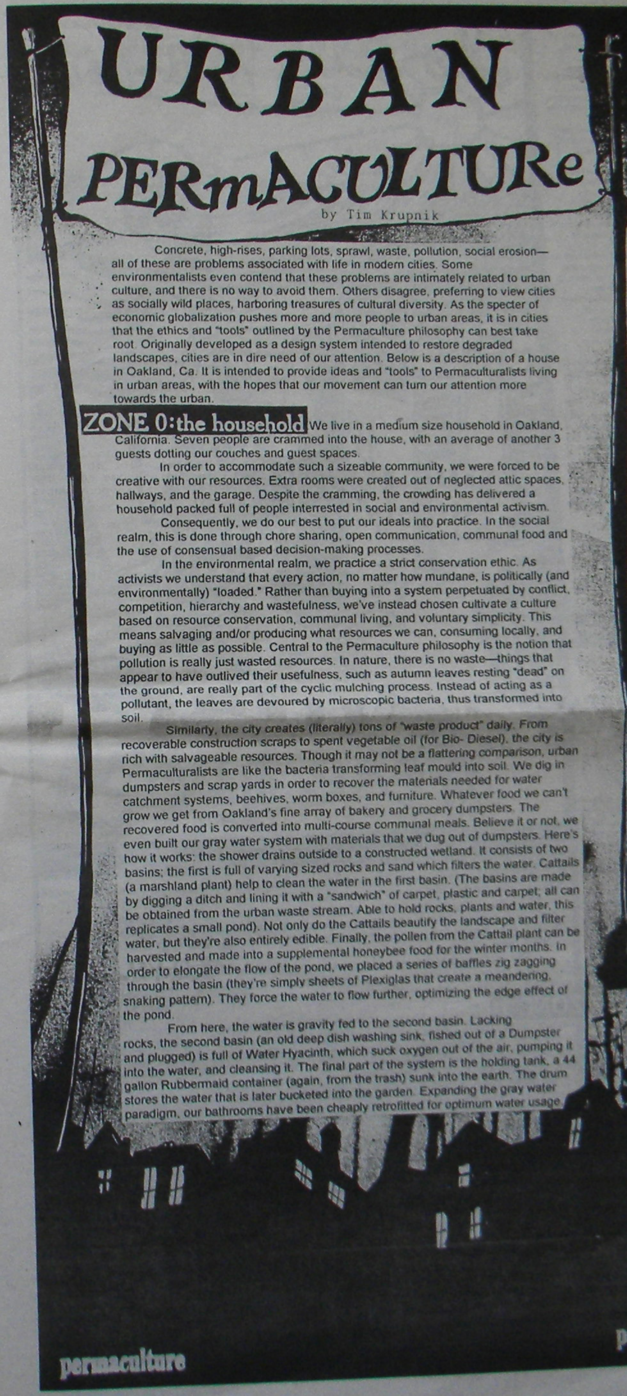
The FTAA is a proposed trade agreement, negotiated in secret by trade ministers from 34 countries--all of the countries of the Americas except for Cuba. It is modeled on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and its goal is to impose trade liberalization, patent protections, deregulation and privatization hemisphere-wide. The FTAA draft texts are secret, but leaked information reveals that many of the FTAA's chapters are literally extensions of NAFTA rules. NAFTA has been a miserable failure in terms of workers and the environment. The FTAA seeks to expand that failure so it will affect the 755 million people that live in the Western Hemisphere, and the land, water, food, forests, health care, education, and work which sustains us.

Why Cultural Resistance?

In this world where corporations are striving to homogenize us into passive and faithful consumers, our culture is our greatest weapon of resistance. Traditional demonstrations and protests, while essential, often alienate the general public, are disregarded by corporate media, bore the participants, and are ignored by policy makers. Taking to the streets with dance, music, street theatre, poetry and the spontaneous eruption of joy breaks through the numbing isolation induced by wage slavery and condescending media and lights a fire in peoples consciousness. Ordinary folks creating meaningful art and sharing culture captures the imagination, and deepens our vision of a movement which is reflective of the worlds we aspire to create.

In creating a radical street festival, we are responding to calls from Ecuador's indigenous and peasant organizations which have asked that people around the world do local solidarity actions. By doing this, we will strenghthen local networks and get the word out that the FTAA is not welcome in the Americas. We will show that we want a better world-one which values mutual aid over private ownership, people over markets, rights over riches. We will demonstrate our firm conviction that **another America is possible.**

for local info contact:
503.499.1116
noftaapdx@yahoo.com
for other info, check out:
www.stopftaa.org



URBAN PERMACULTURe

by Tim Krupnik

Concrete, high-rises, parking lots, sprawl, waste, pollution, social erosion—all of these are problems associated with life in modern cities. Some environmentalists even contend that these problems are intimately related to urban culture, and there is no way to avoid them. Others disagree, preferring to view cities as socially wild places, harboring treasures of cultural diversity. As the specter of economic globalization pushes more and more people to urban areas, it is in cities that the ethics and "tools" outlined by the Permaculture philosophy can best take root. Originally developed as a design system intended to restore degraded landscapes, cities are in dire need of our attention. Below is a description of a house in Oakland, Ca. It is intended to provide ideas and "tools" to Permaculturalists living in urban areas, with the hopes that our movement can turn our attention more towards the urban.

ZONE 0: the household We live in a medium size household in Oakland, California. Seven people are crammed into the house, with an average of another 3 guests dotting our couches and guest spaces.

In order to accommodate such a sizeable community, we were forced to be creative with our resources. Extra rooms were created out of neglected attic spaces, hallways, and the garage. Despite the cramming, the crowding has delivered a household packed full of people interrested in social and environmental activism.

Consequently, we do our best to put our ideals into practice. In the social realm, this is done through chore sharing, open communication, communal food and the use of consensual based decision-making processes.

In the environmental realm, we practice a strict conservation ethic. As activists we understand that every action, no matter how mundane, is politically (and environmentally) "loaded." Rather than buying into a system perpetuated by conflict, competition, hierarchy and wastefulness, we've instead chosen cultivate a culture based on resource conservation, communal living, and voluntary simplicity. This means salvaging and/or producing what resources we can, consuming locally, and buying as little as possible. Central to the Permaculture philosophy is the notion that pollution is really just wasted resources. In nature, there is no waste—things that appear to have outlived their usefulness, such as autumn leaves resting "dead" on the ground, are really part of the cyclic mulching process. Instead of acting as a pollutant, the leaves are devoured by microscopic bacteria, thus transformed into soil.

Similarly, the city creates (literally) tons of "waste product" daily. From recoverable construction scraps to spent vegetable oil (for Bio- Diesel), the city is rich with salvageable resources. Though it may not be a flattering comparison, urban Permaculturalists are like the bacteria transforming leaf mould into soil. We dig in dumpsters and scrap yards in order to recover the materials needed for water catchment systems, beehives, worm boxes, and furniture. Whatever food we can't grow we get from Oakland's fine array of bakery and grocery dumpsters. The recovered food is converted into multi-course communal meals. Believe it or not, we even built our gray water system with materials that we dug out of dumpsters. Here's how it works: the shower drains outside to a constructed wetland. It consists of two basins; the first is full of varying sized rocks and sand which filters the water. Cattails (a marshland plant) help to clean the water in the first basin. (The basins are made by digging a ditch and lining it with a "sandwich" of carpet, plastic and carpet; all can be obtained from the urban waste stream. Able to hold rocks, plants and water, this replicates a small pond). Not only do the Cattails beautify the landscape and filter water, but they're also entirely edible. Finally, the pollen from the Cattail plant can be harvested and made into a supplemental honeybee food for the winter months. In order to elongate the flow of the pond, we placed a series of baffles zig zagging through the basin (they're simply sheets of Plexiglas that create a meandering, snaking pattern). They force the water to flow further, optimizing the edge effect of the pond.

From here, the water is gravity fed to the second basin. Lacking rocks, the second basin (an old deep dish washing sink, fished out of a Dumpster and plugged) is full of Water Hyacinth, which suck oxygen out of the air, pumping it into the water, and cleansing it. The final part of the system is the holding tank, a 44 gallon Rubbermaid container (again, from the trash) sunk into the earth. The drum stores the water that is later bucketed into the garden. Expanding the gray water paradigm, our bathrooms have been cheaply retrofitted for optimum water usage.

Federal law allows a president to order the military or other federal agencies to give equipment, training or other support to friendly countries to deal with emergencies, fight narcotics trafficking or meet other needs. Drawdowns offer the president a quick way to help allies without getting congressional approval, and the use of that authority has expanded dramatically in the past decade.

www.dsca.osd.mil for a good time

Anarchist youth blast squad car

HASTINGS, Minnesota--Three 17-year-old boys have been charged with setting a Dakota County sheriff's deputy's squad car on fire outside his home in Hastings.

According to the complaint, they bought $1.50 worth of gasoline and poured it onto the marked car outside the deputy's home. They also doused a rag with gas and stuffed it into the car's gas tank. The deputy's daughter noticed the fire.

"In interviews with police, the youths said they were anarchists, anti-establishment." said Hastings Police Chief Mike McMenomy. "Initially, they said they were going to smash the car and write anarchist sayings on it."

The incident resulted in over $30,000 in damages to the Hastings police department.

This incident is the first one of a serious felony nature involving a squad car in the Hastings area, McMenomy said. Other squad cars have been vandalized when eggs have been thrown at them.

Protesters armed with flame throwers clash with police

SEOUL, South Korea--About 500 aging former spies clashed with riot police during a protest over compensation claims.

The men, most of whom are in their 60s, say that as secret agents they were sent on highly dangerous infiltration missions to North Korea following the civil war.

The former spies, dressed in black uniforms, fought about 1,000 police with metal sticks and gas canisters, which they set fire to and used as makeshift flame throwers.

The protesters, many wearing red, blue and yellow headbands with "sent to North Korea on spy mission" written on them, shouted "we demand an apology and compensation".

The riot police were forced to retreat.

Naked man terrorizes police

TACOMA, Washington--A man ran naked along a Tacoma street, first yelling death threats at police officers and then assaulting a police dog, officers said.

He kept fighting despite being pepper sprayed and nipped by the dog. A sergeant eventually subdued the man with a stun gun so officers could arrest him, police reported.

Paramedics took the man to Tacoma General Hospital for treatment of injuries from the dog and the stun gun. Later, officers booked the man into Pierce County Jail on suspicion of third-degree assault and assault on a police dog.

by Roger Peet

The plumbing below the sinks have been removed, allowing water to drain directly into a five gallon bucket. When full, the water is used to nourish the plants or to rinse the toilet (by dumping it into the bowl, flushing it) The garage roof houses a solar cooker. Built of salvaged wood, cardboard and a windowpane, the cooker can soar to temperatures of 450 degrees. It was so effective that my first attempt at a meal, which I thought would take a longer amount of time to prepare than a conventional gas oven, resulted in a smoking, burnt mass—effective to say the least.

Were also working on installing a solar water heater, which was bought second hand from a scrap yard for $25. Finally, most of our light fixtures have been outfitted with 12-20 Watt Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (saving significantly on bills).

Permaculture design even applies in our individual rooms. For example, the room we converted from a garage into a living space (which I call my home). I didn't get enough light so I pulled out a skill saw, cut and installed extra windows. They provide me with a view of the garden and our top bar beehives (As opposed to the traditional Langstrough Bee Hive model, top bar hives were developed by a Peace Corps worker in Africa, and are considerably easier to harvest).

The view of the hives is only slightly obscured by the bars on my windows, placed to deter thieves. (Oakland can be a rough place) To make them prettier and more functional I've grown runner beans up them. I've also installed a mini-kitchen and sink (This took me approximately 2-3 hours. The kitchen was built with a muscle-powered saw and hammer. No other tools were needed. Without carpentry skills to make an elaborate set-up, the kitchen still proved to be a functional addition to the room.) From the cutting board, I can easily reach the Beans (or any other trellising plant), toss them in a pot, and prepare a meal.

The gray water from the sink drains into another 5-gallon bucket. It's used to water the compost pile. The pile is also where I go when I need to pee (an ever-rich source of Nitrogen). For that reason the pile has been located no more than 15 feet from the doorstep.

On the other side of my wall (I live in a divided garage, which is separate from the house) I can hear neighborhood kids clunking about in the Bike Library, where they're building bikes. A volunteer run community resource, the five-year-old Bike Library serves to teach kids bike maintenance, providing tools and parts free of charge. They're also supplied with old bike parts that were donated, allowing them to create a custom made cruiser form scratch.

Just outside my door I hear Helen, a math teacher rinsing out her compost bucket. On her day off she cooks for Food Not Bombs which will do a free serving to the homeless later today in People's Park. Food Not Bombs utilizes our house kitchen every Monday and its gratifying to lend your home to such good projects. This brings up an essential principal of Permaculture design—the free sharing of resources. Wherever your project or site may be, it is important to share what you can of it. You'll find that it enriches your life and helps to create a sense of community, making the entire project more valuable.

ZONE 1 :the backyard and garden

The first thing I see when I step out of my bedroom door is a box, full of mulch. The mixture used here consists of chicken manure, straw soaked in horse urine and manure (Nitrogen rich) salvaged from Berkeley's horse racing tracks, food scraps, and newspaper. No actual "soil" was used in the boxes. Instead, the decomposing mulch is actually building soil, which provides enough of a niche to grow strawberries. They make a good, quick picking snack food. Behind them is a stand of giant tomato plants, growing in a box, which is also mulched.

When we started the garden, 15 large concrete blocks were removed from the yard, revealing an area of compacted soil that has now been regenerated. When we wanted to expand the garden, the landlord forbade us from removing any more concrete, so we dumpstered some plywood and constructed a series of planter boxes for the rest of the garden. Rather than spending hundreds of dollars on importing compost, the mulch (costing nothing) has worked superbly.

For example, we have a giant box full of beans and squash. The beans climb up the ladder to the roof of the garage, leading you to the solar oven and another set of boxes full of flowers (bee forage). The run off water from watering the roof boxes is channeled to a gutter that has drip holes drilled in it. This wets the Hops, Comfrey, Beans and decorative plants that live below.

We made use of vertical space by planting potatoes and yacon (an Andean tuber) in old tires. The tires can be stacked vertically, and filled with straw bale (again, from the racetracks) to hill the plants. That way as they grow upwards the plants reach out horizontally–producing tubers and ensuring a large harvest. The tires also act as a heat reservoir, heating the potatoes, which require extra thermal attention. They've also been placed in relative location to heat loving plants and the beehives, making use of their heightened thermal mass (NOTE: some Permaculturalists suggest not using this method. The tires can rot and off-gas, which contaminate growing food. Users of this method should be aware of this possibility, and replace the tires frequently. Another possibility is cutting 55-gallon garbage containers into stackable sections and using them as you would a tire stack).

The fence that separates the garden from the apartment building next door is over flowing with wild blackberries, which (when flowering) are good bee forage, and make excellent pies. There's also honey suckle, and the flowers find their way into my salads a lot. We have various other useful plants—apple and plum tree, corn, squashes of all kinds, garlic, mashaua (another Andean plant) tithonia, artichoke, sorrel, nettle, parsley, spinach, beets, chard, culinary sage, penny royal, earth chestnuts (attracts beneficial insects), mullen, marigolds for the bees and butterflies, lavender, tamarillos, and much more (many of our plants were donated by Wild Heart gardens and the Occidental Arts and Ecology Center—so thanks to them!) All of this is an extremely small space—perhaps 30' by 50' of or less. Much of it is grown using bio-intensive means and by making use of vertical space.

Next to the back door of the main house is a bustling grape vine, tangling it's way up our window's security bars. Below the vine, chard and tomatoes (both of which volunteered) reach for the sunlight. There's also lots of herbs planted near the kitchen door for cooking ease. Likewise is the worm compost bin, which is our second composting system (with 7 plus people and a busy community visiting your house for nearly weekly potlucks you have lots of compost to work with!)

All the parts used for the beehive, boxes, and ponds (and the potato tires) were scavenged. Hardly a penny was spent on anything.

ZONE 2: The Front Yard. The yard is located on a southwest-facing slope, and gets ample afternoon sunlight. We tore out our lawn and proceeded to put in a spiral shaped garden to maximize our planting space and edge effect. Water dependent plants, like broccoli and chives, were planted at the bottom of the slope with the decorative succulents at the top. There's a host of other plants too—from grape to oregano to yacon to mashaua to tithonia to rhubarb and countless other edibles.

We wrote up descriptions of the plants-scientific names, treatment, uses and regional and geographic history and stuck them on posts placed all over the yard. On weekends people walking their children and dogs often stop by to check out the yard and ask questions.

ZONE 3: City Parks. There are median strips between many of the roads in our neighborhood. The lawns planted between their curbs are sustained by spray irrigation. Wanting to see more useful urban plants, we began a series of nighttime tree planting missions. At first people looked at us funny- five kids digging up city parks and median strips at 10 PM. But after the police saw us digging and mulching city property and didn't arrest us, we got the semi official green light and started planting fruit trees all over the neighborhood. Cherry, lemon, lime, plum, pear, and apple trees of all varieties now dot the neighborhood. Strategically placed near the city water sprinklers, they get watered regularly.

ZONES 4-5: The Urban Wilds. Is there a zone 4-5 in a city? I don't know—perhaps the closest thing to these zones is the bay wetlands (a wild life preserve). Maybe in time people will realize the importance of allowing the hills and Bay Shore grow wild again. Even in the heart of the city, thousands of plants and animals make their homes. As the sun creeps down, owls, foxes, raccoons, possums, and countless other animals creep out to scavenge for food.

As the sun climbs back into the sky, ground squirrels, birds, the endangered Alameda County whip snake, and countless other creatures venture out to greet the dawn. Though most of America" cities have been irresponsibly encased in concrete, it is important for us, as Permaculturalists, to oppose unnecessary growth and sprawl. Do we really need more roads, sub-divisions, or high-rises? Wouldn't it be possible to instead cultivate intensive, small scale house-holds that are relatively self-sufficient? It is important actively protest such cancerous growth and instead promote small-scale urban development. Perhaps then we will be able to let our urban lands begin to grow truly wild.

RECLAIM YOUR MADNESS:

MENTAL HEALTH D.I.Y STYLE

By Annie psychotic

Right now is a time when we are starting to feel the effects of a sick society. These pressures are causing many people to notice an increase in mental health-related symptoms such as anxiety, depression, anger, and disrealty, all perfectly natural reactions to a fucked-up world.

This article is directed to the people whose mental chaos goes beyond this; it is a call-out to that portion of our community who have had to live with these symptoms throughout their lives, every single day and survived despite this: Survivors of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse; psychiatric survivors, domestic and ritual abuse survivors; People living with chronic anxiety, OCD, panic attacks, bi-polar-ness, and other so-called "disorders"; survivors of self-harm and those surviving the chaos and loneliness of their own reality; anybody who identifies as multiple, has social phobias, anyone who suffers from "breakdowns". Those who have lived in and out of institutions, or whose brains have been manipulated with mind-numbing pharmaceuticals shoved down their throats. This is a call-out for anybody who has been called crazy by their friends and family. And for those living in silence, hiding alone with their insanity, in fear of alienation and abandonment.

In this day and age the mental health industry (one of the fastest growing and most profitable industries in the world today) uses books like the DSM III (the standard diagnostic manual used by all psychiatrists and psychologists to label us as "mentally ill") as they previously used the Malleus Malleficrum (used to determine the innocent as heretics and witches). Only in this modern-day witch-hunt, madness comes neatly packaged with a diagnosis, a chemical "cure", and a stigma that reduces people suffering from mental "illness" to second-class citizens to be feared and persecuted (and eventually if all goes as planned, fucked-up, doped-up, and locked-up).

Many people have chosen to reject the fascism of the corporate mental health system: forced drugging, prescriptions institutionalization, electro-convulsive-therapy (shock treatment), and overall theft of mind freedoms. It's easy for people within the activist community to condemn such atrocities but much harder to offer solutions and alternatives. Often, such condemnation causes people struggling with their mental health to feel even more fear and alienation, especially when coming from peers who have never had to make the choice between prescription drugs and suicide.

So we are calling out to people whithin the "scene" and without, who depite the obvious similarities (i.e. political views, lifestyle, appearance, diet, etc.) with those surrounding them, feel alienated and isolated because of their mental health.

There is a revolution in thought going on today. There are common goals of equality, autonomy, resistance and peace that we all hope to bring to fruition. I believe these goals are impossible to meet unless we all feel safe in honestly expressing the chaos in our minds and the pain in our hearts. The more we continue to fear eachother and ignore the emotional well-being of our companions, the more we cut off the flow of comunication within our communities.

So what do we do then? How do we create an environment that feels safe for those of us to whom safety and security have consistently been denied?

Here is one possible solution:

I am a member of a group of people that formed about a year ago, after I was approached by a friend who was interested in starting a support group for ourselves and others struggling with our mental health. We got all excited about being a part of a support group run for and by the crazies. I had benefitted from support groups in the past, but became disillusioned by the patient/doctor power(less) structure, and by the constant pushing of prescription drugs instead of reliable solutions.

So we formed a non-hierarchical group that would meet once a week to talk about our shit and offer eachother support and advice. We consist of people who have been through the psychiatric system, and of those who haven't, people who have suffered at the hands of others,as well as people who need someone they can talk to and trust with their disclosures. It is a place to come to vent, talk about your week, talk about your life. It is somewhere to come to offer solutions and share past experiences. It is a place to come and a group of allies to turn to when you are in crisis. It is a place I can go if I'm feeling just fine, to listen and offer support to friends that need it. Most of all, it is judgement-free and confidential. We are birds of a feather, all crazy, all allies.

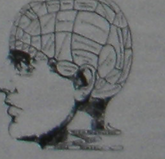
We have had several members, some constant, others coming and going. We are still working out the quirks. The group is constantly changing and growing as time goes on. And that brings me to my next point: It is essential that support be there for all those who need it, but one group is not enough. Part of our original idea was to have a network of groups running independently from eachother, but remaining in contact. One of the inevitabilities of getting a bunch of crazy people together is that unforseen issues and interpersonal conflicts are bound to arise. Which is why it is important to have a community of groups to turn to for support and an outside perspective. Ideally this would provide a larger circle of allies, and more empathy and compassion towards eachother within the activist communities.

We need people who have a safe space they are willing to contribute for a group to meet in once a week for a few hours (ideally someone within the group themelves, or close personal alllies). We've found that 4 or 5 people to a group allows every one to get a chance to speak (allotting for inevitable no-shows).

Allies, people who are willing and able to support their crazy friends, but do not identify as crazy (a.k.a. "mentally ill") themselves are always appreciated. However in order to ensure an equal balance between support and disclosure, only people who are "out" as crazy or are in the process of working on their shit are invited to join. There are no credentials. If you're crazy, you'll know. It is a place where you are safe to be in crisis among those who have been (or are there) themselves.

Society teaches us to be ashamed of our brain and our feelings. They tell us we are sick. What they are really afraid of is that inside of us is the makings of revolution. We hope those who are interested will contact us and get involved, to the extent of their abilities.

Please contact
me, Annie at 503-493-9417
or Jax at 503-289-0047



email: annieanxiety888@yahoo.com

SUPPORT THE BALTIMORE ANTI-RACIST TWENTY EIGHT

Anti-racist activists were arrested while protesting the neo-nazi organization The National Alliance at Baltimore Travel Plaza on August 24, 2002. Some two hundred activists were gathering there to meet before attending a rally in Washington, D.C. later that day. As the activists entered the parking lot, the group was confronted by several police cars. They were all placed under arrest, cuffed, and brought to the police station before being transferred to Central Booking. Even the lawyer attempting to represent the activists was placed under arrest for failure to obey an officer. Some were eventually released on their own recognizance while others had bail amounts upwards of $10,000. None of them were told what they were being charged with until after they had been interviewed. All the arrested say they committed no crime.

Later that night, Baltimore police carried out a search on a community center which was being used to coordinate jail solidarity. Police had no warrant, but they confiscated pamphlets, magazines and other literature. Immediately afterward, police surrounded a progressive activist center and attempted another warrant-less search but the activists inside refused to talk with police and instead called the media. Police left when the media arrived and then followed and pulled over cars traveling to and from those locations. Reasons were not given as to why cars were being stopped and several people were pulled over at gunpoint.

It is clear that the charges against the 28 anti-racists are part of a larger attempt to silence the voices of committed activists. This case is important to everyone continent-wide who is opposed to racial and other such prejudices. The Baltimore Anti-Racist 28 not only need funds, they also are still in need of legal support. Any legal resources you can provide will be greatly appreciated and desperately needed.

Corporate media accounts are based on statements by the police and National Alliance. Accurate information on the charges and police tactics need to be disseminated.

TWENTY- SEVEN ACTIVISTS CHARGED WITH:

-one count of rioting (unlimited penalty)

-three counts of second degree aggravated assault (punishable up to 10 years and/or a $2,500 fine)

-one count of possession of a deadly weapon with the intent to injure (punishable by up to 3 years and/or a $1,000 fine)

-one count of malicious destruction of property valued at over $500 (punishable by up to 3 years and/or a $2,500 fine)

-one count of disorderly conduct (punishable by up to 60 days and/or a $500 fine)

The twenty-seventh activist, a minor, received additional charges, 20 counts of Second Degree Aggravated Assault.
The twenty-eighthis a representative of the National Lawyers Guild and was arrested while attempting to protect the rights of the others.

The National Alliance claim to police that they were confronted by anti-fascists in the morning. If so, it was before these twenty-eight arrived. These antifas need your assistance as they are facing a combined total of about 1,177 years in prison.

Please donate to the Baltimore Anti-Racist 28 Legal Defense Fund. Many of thousands of dollars will be needed to fight these charges. Much thanks to all those who sent money for bail. Now the serious costs will begin. Every little bit counts.

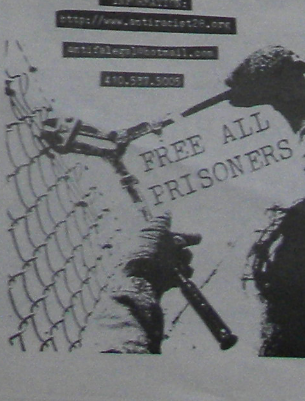
Personal checks or money orders should be made to Black Planet Books with a memo that it is for the Anti-Racist 28 legal defense efforts. If sending cash, conceal it well.

INFORMATION:

http://www.antiracist28.org

antifalegal@hotmail.com

410.537.5005



JUST ANOTHER ONE OF THE BOYS FROM BOONVILLE

When I was growing up, I was looked upon as a problem child for I was always in and out of the juvenile center. We lived on the south side of St. Louis. I remember how I used to get into fights in school every day. I never started them, but I was always the one blamed. My mother and grandmother were always there for me, the family unit was in place.

I recall that, in 1967 I ran away from home to hang out with my friends who were the bad boys of the neighborhood. I began to love the street life; there were no adults to tell us what to do or not to do; we stole whatever we wanted or needed. One day my mother caught me and took me back home. I ran away again and again. The police caught me breaking into someone's house and I was taken to the juvenile center. They called my mother but when she got there she told the juvenile authorities to keep me for a while as she was having problems with me. I kept running away from home for no sound reasons. I was always getting into fights in school and if they kept me maybe it would teach me a lesson.

My mother, father, grandmother and grandfather all visited me while I was in jail. After four months my juvenile officer told my mother she could take me home if she wanted to , so I went home. I remember how happy everyone was to see me and how nice everyone was to me. However, in 1968 I ran away from home again. The police caught me and turned me over to juvenile court. In 1968 the court sent me to the Missouri Training School for Boys in Boonville. That is how I became one of the boys from Boonville. There at Boonville, I also began to get the same reputation as a troublemaker, a bad boy, an undesirable no one could control.

I was always in trouble at Boonville because the staff was extremely racist. I had never experienced racism until I was sent to Boonville. The first time I was called a nigger was at Boonville - by a staff member named Mr. Carmichael. Every weekend it was almost a ritual that I had to fight the duke of the dormitory of another kid there. One day while I was drinking water in the fields digging up potatoes, Mr. Foster, the head man over us, walked up to me and kicked me in the ass and said, "Nigger boy, get back to work." I lost all control of myself and rushed toward him. I remember knocking him to the ground then I was put in the hole. That was my first time in the hole. Then one day they came and got about six of us and drove us to Jefferson City to the Missouri State Penitentiary. Of the boys, Gary (Fox) Barber, came back to prison and was killed by another prisoner in 1984. One other boy, Earl Davis, and I are the only ones alive. Earl is a minister somewhere, but he too came back to prison.

At the age of thirteen, I was sitting in a prison cell called E-Hall crying my head off; I was scared to death. I remember receiving little love notes and candy in E-Hall. I remember telling the other boys we all have to stick together no matter what. In November of 1969, we were sent to Algoa. Algoa was extremely hard for me because the older prisoners used to always jump on me asking for sex, trying to make a punk out of me. I had to fight each and every day. The guards were of no use to any of us.

One day I was put in the hole for talking in line. I remember beating on the door complaining that my cell was cold. The guards sprayed me with water hoses and then opened the windows. After a month, I was released from the hole.

I'd been sent to Jefferson City in August or September of 1969, then to Algoa during the first week of September, 1970. I remember the guards coming to my cell and beating me with sticks because I would not stop hollering and pleading for help. One day, I was released out of the hole, the following week a lawyer came to see us and asked if we wanted to go home. We all said yes. We were told to sign some papers and the following week we were put on a bus and sent back to St. Louis. We had not committed any crimes; we were given no reason why we'd been sent to Jefferson City.

I have always believed that this horrifying experience was the same reason why am sitting in prison today where I have now been for 34 years.

Since I understand things much better today I can clearly see now that I was bred for prison life the way that one breeds cows, horses, pigs or dogs and as it was then it is now.

As I recall, after my release from Algoa in February of '71 I mostly stayed around the house and enrolled myself back in school with the help of a juvenile case worker whose name was Mr. Thomas. I used to have to report to him once a week. I was enrolled in Southwest High GED classes. One day I saw one of my old friends. We started hanging out together. We were not getting into any trouble but I stopped going to school.

One day, as I was walking home, one of the Barry twins, who lived down the street from me on St. Vincent Street, offered me a ride in his car. He dropped me off at my house and we talked for a while. I went in the house, changed my clothes and the hit the streets. As I went down the street, I saw Barry sitting in his car. He asked me did I want to go with him over to his girlfriend's house? I said, sure why not? I never thought to question Barry about his car, so I got in his car. As soon as we turned onto a street named Grand, the police got in behind us with their light flashing. Then Barry told me that this was not his car, it was stolen. To add insult to injury, he jumped out of the car and left me holding the bag, so to speak, because I forgot to run. The only thing that helped me some was that the police saw the driver jump out of the car and run. Since I refused to tell who the driver was, I was arrested for riding in a stolen car and, lo and behold, guess what happened? I found myself again being sent to Boonville in July of '71.

But this time things were different because I was the only one sent to the Missouri State Penitentiary, released and then sent back to Boonville. Needless to say, the Boonville staff was not "pleased to see me again. Nevertheless, I was able to stay out of trouble. A Food Service Management training school course had been established, allowing one to learn a trade in food service. I took the course and completed it.

One day, I was called to the Boonville Administrative Building and when I arrived I was ordered to cuff up (be handcuffed) because I was being sent back to the Juvenile Center in St. Louis. I was not allowed to pack my personal belongings (my property) and to this day I never saw my personal property again. When I arrived at the Juvenile Center, I learned that Boonville officials sent me back to the Center to have me certified as an adult. The Juvenile Court Judge, however, ordered that I be sent back to Boonville but the Boonville officials refused to accept me. The Juvenile Court Judge then released me into the custody of my mother in January of '72.

I remember growing up after I was released from Juvenile and how the police used to go out of their way to harass me. I can remember how the police used to catch me by myself and take me to the Third District Police Station on the south side of St. Louis and make me walk from there to my own neighborhood. This was a problem because I had to walk through an all white neighborhood and, as soon as some white dudes spotted me, the foot race was on. The police would do this once or twice a month. The white dudes never caught me and I became so well known in the neighborhood that I had free passage as long as I did not go wandering around. I remember how my little walks became a joke to them so instead of chasing me through their neighborhood, some would laugh me through it. Even so, I made a friend or two along the way.

The police came up with something new called frame-ups or set-ups, so, at the age of 17, I was sitting in prison charged with a robbery I had nothing to do with, on a three year sentence, all certified and legal-like. Every one of the boys from Boonville who were transferred with me the first go around, I ended up meeting again in prison. Not once did we, our families, lawyers, judges, news reporters, parole officers, etc. mention what had happened to us. The state of Missouri has been covering this up for way too long and I am seeking a closure to this nightmare. Can you believe that from 1968 up until today I have never seen a Christmas, a birthday, a New Year or a Thanksgiving in society (i.e., the free world)?

This nightmare began when they illegally sent me to prison at thirteen years old. I ask you, where is the justice? I am 46 years old now and I have been unjustly condemned to sitting in the hole. I am classified as an undesirable even today because I continue to resist and oppose the injustices and inequities of this state system of social control. I plan to fight the injustice that was done to me until death seizes me or until justice prevails.

This is becoming extremely difficult for me because the pain is real and my mind keeps shutting down; it will have to do until I am able to go deeper into my past. There is a lot more to tell but that's a lot to ask; a lot of doors to open that I am not ready to deal with for the pain and suffering is great. I have to really sit down and put my all into this because it involves my revolutionary consciousness. I see the need to have my experience out there. Consequently, my story will be continued.

In struggle Jerome White-Bey

Jerome White-Bey is an anarchist prison activist who founded the Missouri Prisoner Labor Union (MPLU), an organization of Missouri prisoners and their outside supporters who are organizing around their prison, slave labor and other prison conditions in Missouri. Since the founding of the MPLU, Jerome has been subject to administrative harassment and retaliation. He was put in the hole, a way to isolate and segregate prisoners, for two years after forming the MPLU. Days after his release into general population, he helped save the life of a fellow MPLU member who was attacked with a knife in the dining hall. The assailant was sent to another prison and Jerome was sent back to the hole for "the safety and security of the institution.

Jerome is asking for support. If you can get his story out, write the prison about releasing him from segregation or send money for stamps, you should write him for the details in helping him. Please write him or South Chicago ABC for the specifics. Thank you.

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